Issue No 101 Available from Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Help reduce your town's carbon footprint during seven-day event to make us all more eco-friendly DETAILS INSIDE

IMAS STAR DIES ON DUCHLINE AT GA

WHAT'S ON & WATCH yourkenttv.co.uk

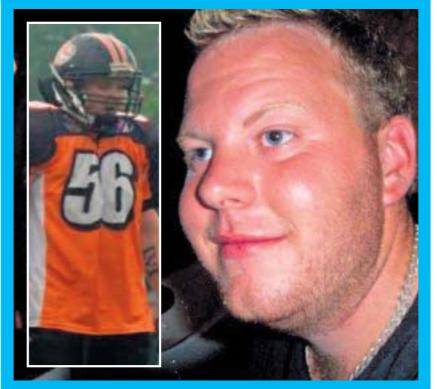


See a trailer of Sienna Miller's new movie GI Joe: The Rise of the Cobra. Search 'film'.

ALSO INSIDE

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Alan 'Minty' Newcombe was aged just 26 when he collapsed and died on the sidelines on Sunday afternoon while playing American football for the Maidstone Pumas at a University of Kent sports field in Canterbury.

BY ANNA WHITE

TEAM-mates have paid tribute to an American football player who collapsed and died on the sideline during a Sunday afternoon game.

Alan Newcombe, 26, who was known as Minty, had been playing for Maidstone Pumas against East Kent Mavericks on the Keynes College playing fields at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

He collapsed while standing on the sideline towards the end of the game, but had previous-

ly been playing.

A spokesman from South East Coast Ambulance Service confirmed crews were called to the pitch at 4.45pm - about two hours after the match started - to treat a man in his 20s who had stopped breathing. The crew attempted to resuscitate him en-route to the Kent and Sussex Hospital, in Tunbridge Wells,

but he was later pronounced dead.

A member of the Maidstone Pumas American Football Old and Present group, on social networking site Facebook, has left a heartfelt tribute in memory of the much-loved player.

The message, posted by the general manager for the club's youth team, Mark Lawrence, says: "We are all devastated by the loss of a great friend, team-mate, brother - Alan 'Minty' Newcombe, who passed away wearing team colors on our sideline during the game.

"RIP Minty, we will always remember and love you as one of our own.

A team-mate added: "Once a Puma always a Puma. We'll never forget him.

Other messages left on the site describe the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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WHAT'S ON & WATCH yourkenttv.co.uk

TOP TV CLIPS



Julie Maddocks visits St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury to see the Screen on the Green open-air cinema. Search 'Screen'



Two servicemen injured in Afghanistan compete in a 22-mile relay swim across the Channel. Search 'Channel'





Broadstairs Folk Week brought vast crowds of families and music-lovers to the town. Search 'Folk'

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Fury at plan to raise speed limit on A20

BY ANNA WHITE

FAMILIES have vowed to fight plans to increase the speed limit on what they say is a dangerous stretch of road.

A report commissioned by Kent County Council recommends the speed limit for the A20, which runs through Harrietsham and Lenham, is raised from 40mph to 60mph.

The recommendation has caused outrage among the Harrietsham and Lenham's Residents' Association, who have formally lodged their objection to the plans, and questioned why their opinions were not taken into account.

In a letter to Kent County Council, the group said: "We were dismayed with the content of this report, specifically the section which addresses the A20 covering the villages of Harrietsham and Lenham."

The residents went on to say that the report ignored their suggestion to extend the current 40mph limit further towards Lenham, to avoid drivers entering Harrietsham at the national speed limit.

The group also argues that the report did not consider the fact that the A20 is turned into a 'surrogate motorway' when Operation Stack is

implemented.
They said: "We reject the report's recommendations and ask KCC councillors to reject the report and to carry out a full review, incorporating other speed reduction features and traffic speed control measures."

Harrietsham councilor David Marshall told Yourmaidstone: "I strongly support the residents and I am surprised Kent County Council would consider increasing the speed limit for the A20.

"In some areas I would like it to be



30mph, as it is proven to be a dangerous stretch of road."

The proposal has been released less than a year after 70-year-old Leedham, Harrietsham, was killed in a hitand-run incident while crossing a 40mph stretch of road which leads

into the proposed the section.

Her son Keith told the BBC: "The limit should be reduced, not increased. If they took the speed limit down and enforced it, it would save lives. Campaigns say speed kills, so why take it up?"

A KCC spokesman said: "Kent Highway Services, in consultation with the police, is conducting a review of speed limits on Kent's A roads as required by the Government.

"Changes have been suggested for the A20 at Harrietsham as part of that process. Any proposals will be considered at a later stage.

vourmaidstone

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man to face court over tree car crash

A MAN has been charged with driving without insurance and fleeing a crash scene after the car he was driving hit a tree.

Norbert Sagan, 22, of Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, was charged with the two offences and issued with a caution for aggravated vehicle taking, following the incident in Upper Stone

Street last Thursday.
He has been bailed to appear before Maidstone magistrates on September 1.

Two other men were arrested on suspicion of drugs offences. One was released without charge and the other, a 24-yearold, has been bailed until October 9.

At the time of the arrest officers found what they believed was class B drugs – thought to be Ecstasy.

Campaigners show demand for trains

EVIDENCE that shows a demand for off-peak fast trains to central London from Maidstone has been handed to the minister for rail matters.

The information was gathered by the Keep Our Trains campaign group, which is fighting Southeastern Railway's plans to scrap off-peak fast train services from the county town to London Cannon Street.

Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe, Mid Kent and Faversham MP Hugh Robertson and Sir John Stanley, MP for Tonbridge and Malling, handed it in to the Department for Transport on Friday.

The minister will now consider the submitted information and make a decision on Southeastern's proposal.

£17.6m food depot to provide 350 jobs

A MULTI-million pound food distribution depot will create hundreds of jobs when it opens in Paddock Wood.

The new 3663 First for Foodservice depot has been built on the site of a former Whirpool warehouse, which burnt down four years ago.

The food distribution company

behind the £17.6million depot will merge its Edenbridge and Sevenoaks branches, and will employ a team of 350 staff, according to the BBC.



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TV show millionaire helps family make a new start

BY ANNA WHITE

A BUSINESSMAN gave a family living in poverty a helping hand when he appeared on a new TV show last week.

Self-made millionaire Peter Bull, who owns The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood, grew up on a council estate in south London.

So when Channel 4 offered him the opportunity to help a family in a similar situation, he jumped at the chance.

Mr Bull, 58, agreed to appear on the TV show How the Other Half Lives with his wife Julie and their daughters Rosie, 11, and eight-year-

The programme aimed to show viewers what it's like to grow up in poverty in Britain in the 21st century and in each episode a wealthy family chose a struggling family to get to know and eventually help financially.

Mr Bull told Yourmaidstone: "Since I was voted Entrepreneur of the Year in 2007, I've had various offers to do shows, but this was one I could really associate with, as could my wife Julie?

He was introduced to the Cuthbert family mum Toni, step-dad Jimmy, and children Sam, Harley, and Teddy.

When he first met the Cuthbert family, they were facing eviction from their home in a council estate in north London, and struggling to buy everyday necessities.

Jimmy used to earn £800 as a scaffolder, but after a 30-foot fall he got a job delivering fish, starting at 3.30am each day and earning a £260 a week.



HELPING HAND: Peter Bull appeared with the Cuthbert family (inset) on Channel 4 TV show, How The Other Half Lives

To try and help the family's situation Sam did

a paper round seven days a week.

Mr Bull said: "I saw a lot of myself in Sam, he's a bit of a wheeler dealer – an Artful Dodger character - and I could relate to what they were going through.

The two families communicated through letters before they finally met at the Bull's 25-room mansion in Battle, East Sussex

The Bull family gave the Cuthberts £4,500 to pay-off some of their debts, put £6,000 in a trust fund for the children and gave them a way out of London by offering Jimmy a job at one of Mr Bull's caravan parks and the family a new home. Mr Bull said: "I wanted to help them get somewhere, not just buy a plasma television, but to take the hand I was offering them. My way of thinking has always been if I help others then somewhere along the line someone will help me.

"It was just a nice thing to do and I'm pleased I did it, and would like to do something like it

again in the future."

As an extra gift, Mr Bull also offered to pay for Jimmy and Toni's wedding and to hold it at The Hop Farm in February.

The episode was the last in the series and was

aired on Thursday last week.

Anglers warned over dangers to swans

ANIMAL welfare officers are calling on anglers to clean up their litter after a badly injured swan had to be put to sleep.

RSPCA inspector Andrew Kirby was called the lake, in Willow Lane, Larkfield, and found the bird with two hooks in its throat and line wrapped around its leg.

Mr Kirby said: "By the time I arrived at the scene this poor swan was too badly injured to be saved and when I took it to the vet he said that the best option was euthanasia.

"It's so sad. She had cygnets and a partner - they are now alone on the lake.

The RSPCA wants inexperienced anglers to know how to prevent injuries to swans.

Tips include not leaving rods unat-tended as swans find baited hooks attractive and swim through lines while they are in use, and to always clean up any fishing litter before leaving.

To report any animal in distress please call the RSPCA on 0300 123 999.

Town centre bosses in call to Go Green

SHOPPERS are being encouraged to be more eco-friendly to help put a stop to climate change and reduce the county town's carbon footprint.

Maidstone Town Centre Management will be running the Make it Maidstone -Make it Green event, supported by Yourmaidstone.

The week, which starts on Monday, is rganised in association with organised Countrystyle Waste Management and Kent County Council, as well as being supported by Maidstone council, and will see a series of green-inspired exhibitions hosted at town centre hotspots.

• FOR OUR IN-DEPTH FEATURE ON MAIDSTONE **GOES GREEN WEEK - SEE PAGES 22-23**

Tributes flood in to popular **Gridiron player**

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

devoted Puma player as a "top bloke" and "one of the nicest guys you could ever meet", as well as someone who always made time for his friends and family.

Another said: "Twenty six – what

sort of age is that?"

A message left by Cai Ap Bryn, who plays for a rival team, said: "So sorry for your loss, my thoughts are with Minty's family, friends and all of the Maidstone Pumas.

"We held a prayer for Alan on our we field a prayer for than on the sideline and all of our hearts were with you all. We may be opposition on the field, but when things like this happen we all come together and support each other. RIP.

Another message posted says: "I'm really sorry to hear the news guys, my thoughts are with you all and with Minty's family. A real

hero on and off the pitch."

Mr Newcombe wore shirt number 56 for the club's senior team and played on the offensive line.

Many of the group's members have changed their profile pictures the club's logo and Mr Newcombe's shirt number as a tribute to their fellow team player.

The club's officials yesterday refused to comment on Mr Newcombe's death.

Bag snatchers squirt ketch-up to confuse victims

STREET muggers from abroad are believed to be targeting the elderly in the county town.

In a new scam the victim has tomato ketchup squirted on to their clothes and as people stop to help them clean up, their bags are stolen.

Police, who have made one arrest, believe that a gang from Europe, possibly Spain, could be responsible. There have been two attacks in

Maidstone. A woman, aged 67, was squirted with ketchup minutes after taking £100 from a cash machine.

She said: "I was walking to the shop when my jacket was covered in tomato sauce. Someone came up to me and offered to help, and the next thing I knew my bag was gone."

The woman, who asked not to be named, said: "It was a horrible experience and I urge anyone who is squirted with something to think first and not hand any property over to anyone."

A second man was targeted in a

charity shop after being squirted with liquid smelling of dog excrement from a squeezy bottle.

Kent Crime Prevention Officer John Grant said: "The criminal technique used in these cases is one that is used commonly in Spain.

We understand that the criminals are flying into the country and are working in groups.
"A minibus is being used to drop

these gangs into an area where they then use this distraction technique to rob people"

Mr Grant is urging the public to be aware of this new distraction technique and has made a video of one such theft, which can be watched on www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

One woman of Chilean decent, who uses a number of aliases and whose husband is Spanish, has been arrested in connection with these incidents.

If you have any information regarding these incidents, please call Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.



Graduates can pick up job skills at charity shop

A CHARITY has launched a scheme for graduates to learn skills and stand out to employers during the recession.

The British Heart Foundation is offering university leavers the opportunity to volunteer in its shops in Kent - including its Maidstone outlet.

Lynda Middleton, area manager for Kent, said: "In a competitive job market, volunteering can offer young people more than just something to do with their free time."

For details visit www.bhf.org.uk/shops or call 0844 412 5000.

Giant posters give you something to chew over

A POSTER campaign has been launched to discourage gum-chewers from littering the county town's streets and pavements.

Maidstone council's cabinet member for the environment, Cllr Mark Wooding, said: "We are putting up giant posters to tell chewers to bin their gum or face £80 fines.

"They'll be used on a variety of outdoor poster sites and buses."

Motoring students put driving skills to the test

MOTOR vehicle students were allowed to take one of the course's cars out for a test drive and show off their car control skills.

The students from MidKent College, in Maidstone, used the Vauxhall Nova that they modified during lessons to practise a series of auto tests in fields in Headcorn. For details of MidKent College courses visit www.midkent.ac.uk, or call 01634 402020.

Volunteer needed to keep a check on councillors

COUNCIL bosses are looking for a Maidstone resident to help keep a check on the county town's councillors.

Maidstone council wants to recruit a fourth member of the public to join its standards committee.

Committee chairman, Don Wright, said: "It is important that our councillors are seen to uphold the highest standards."

Call monitoring officer Paul Fisher on 01622 602006, email paulfisher@maidstone.gov.uk, or contact Mr Wright by emailing wrightsolu@aol.com.

Charlie's rowing for gold in 2012 dream

BY ANNA WHITE

A YOUNG rower is hoping a business will give him the support he needs to achieve his Olympic dream and bring a medal home from the London 2012 Games.

Oakwood Park Grammar School student Charlie Talbot discovered his love for rowing four years ago at school and has been pursuing his passion ever since.

Charlie, 15, competed at the National Rowing Championships in Nottingham last year and hopes to return this year and bag a medal.

But his ultimate dream is to compete on the world stage. He said: "My dream and aim is to compete for my country.

To compete at the London 2012 Olympics, he needs financial help, as he cannot just rely on his family.

Charlie signed-up to Maidstone council's website - Maidstone's Dream - when it was launched earlier this year.

The ambitious project, which is backed by Yourmaidstone, aims to team promising athletes from Maidstone with local businesses to give them the sponsorship they need to propel them towards London 2012 and beyond

Charlie said: "To receive sponsorship money would mean being able to buy additional equipment. Currently, all my funding comes from my parents.

"I am very focused and committed in all I do. I am proud of my achievements and would be encouraged and grateful that someone else is prepared to invest and assist me. "Having a sponsor would mean that I have

not only myself to achieve for. I would find it very motivating that someone else was looking out for me."

Positive

The teenager trains hard to maintain his fitness by attending Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club, where his coach Ray Long is based, twice a week and the gym three times a week.

Charlie maintains a positive outlook on life and feels his attitude is all down to his love of

He said: "I enjoy being part of a team. I feel that sport should be participated in by all, as you are motivated and feel focused, and this assists in everyday life.

"My advice to other sportspeople is to never give up and don't get disheartened if you have a bad day. You need to respect fellow competitors, always aim high and reach your goals."

To view Charlie's profile and other Olympic hopefuls from Maidstone visit www.maidstonesdream.co.uk.



FOCUSED: Young rower Charlie Talbot needs a sponsor

Four in court after attack outside nightclub



FOUR men have appeared in court after an incident outside a town centre nightclub.

Adebola Alimi, 18, Nicholas Garcia, 24, Earl Williams, 25, and Dare Adun, 20, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday last week to enter their pleas for charges after the attack in April this year.

Garcia, and Williams, both from Hackney,

pleaded guilty to wounding with intent.

Alimi, of Beechholmes Estate, Hackney, and Adun, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to violent disorder.

A 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, from Holloway, north London, pleaded not guilty to the charges and will

appear at Canterbury Crown Court on Friday, where he will stand trial.

The four other offenders will be sentenced at a later date.

All five men were originally charged with three counts of attempted murder, wounding with intent and violent disorder.

The attack happened outside the Lockmeadow Complex, in Maidstone, in the early hours of the morning on Friday, April

As a result, the victims - Jermaine Dixon, Dion Benjamin and Marcus Williams – all had to be treated for injuries at Maidstone





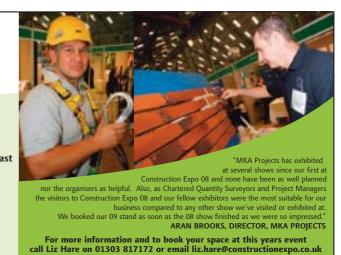
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EXPECTATION: Aylesford Priory, above, will display the remains of the popular St Therese, who is pictured below

Thousands expected to visit priory

THE Holy remains of one of the Catholic Church's most celebrated saints is expected to attract thousands of visitors when it is put on display in a historic priory.

The relics of St Therese of Lisieux have toured the world to huge outpourings of emotion from Christians.

In 2001, a 14-day visit to Ireland saw an estimated 75 per cent of the entire population come and pay their respects – a number dwarfing that which turned out to see Pope John Paul II's famous Papal visit in 1982.



BY NEILL BARSTON

And a recent tour of the USA saw more than a million people kiss the box containing

Now, for the first time, they are coming to the UK.

As part of a tour of 22 locations, the remains will be visiting the Carmelite Friars at Aylesford Priory between October 9 and 11.

And the normally quiet location is already bracing itself for thousands of people to flood in to see the woman dubbed the Little Flower of Jesus'

Father Joseph Chalmers at the priory said: She was only 24 when she died, but what she did was show people that the gospels should be followed in a simple way – you don't have to do wonderful things for God – you just have to open yourself to him and he will do wonderful things for you.

"We just have no idea how it's going to go. "I can't say relics particularly appeal to me, but I am drawn to Therese as a person.

"Therese's relics have gone all over the world, which is fitting as she always said she wanted to be a missionary."

Born Francoise-Therese Martin in 1873, the Carmelite nun is one of only three women to be recognised as a 'Doctor of the Church' a rare title bestowed upon those perceived to

be of particular religious importance.

Her fame was sparked after a religious experience led her to devote her life to God and pursue her Little Way' – a quest for sanctity achieved not through heroic acts, but deeds of goodness throughout ones life.

A specially-adapted hearse will carry the remains to 22 locations across the UK including Aylesford Priory - culminating at Westminster Cathedral.

yourmaidstone **NEWS** IN BRIEF

Come on over for a coffee

RAFFLE tickets are now on sale for one of the leading World's Biggest Coffee Morning events in the county.

The Highgrove Garden Centre, in Marden, will host the annual bash for Macmillan Cancer Support's flagship fundraising event on Friday, September 25.

Each year various people and companies host their own coffee mornings to raise vital funds for the charity, and last year 1,300 coffee mornings were held in Kent - raising more than £180,000. Highgrove Garden Centre is considered one of the charity's top hosts in Kent and has raised a total of £8,278.97 since it first became involved.

Hundreds of people will attend Highgrove's event, held in the Garden Cafe, which is free and will run from 9am to 12pm.

See www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 602 1246, quoting ref RNA 10 to register and be sent an information pack.

Jail for council tax dodger

A MAN who tried to avoid paying council tax for three houses in Maidstone has been sentenced to 79 days in prison.

Colin Ranken, from Otterden, Faversham, was found guilty on Friday, August 7, of failing to pay his £4,687.71 council tax bill between December 2004 and March 2008.

Head of revenues and benefits at Maidstone council, Stephen McGinnes, said: "While the council is keen to help those experiencing financial difficulty, it has a duty to pursue those who continue to refuse to pay, which can ultimately end in a pris-

Enjoy a tribute for charity

FANS of The Beatles can step back to the 1960s with a top tribute act performing at a special charity show.

The Beatlez will take to the stage at The Weald of Kent Golf Club in Headcorn on September 18 in aid of the Kent-based charity for the deaf and hard-of-hearing HiKent.

The show starts at 7.30pm until 11.30pm, and there will be licensed bar and raffle.

Tickets cost £28, including a buffet meal, and can be bought from HiKent on 01622 691151, or from its head office in Brewer Street, Maidstone.





Click on www.lilyspice.co.uk for more information

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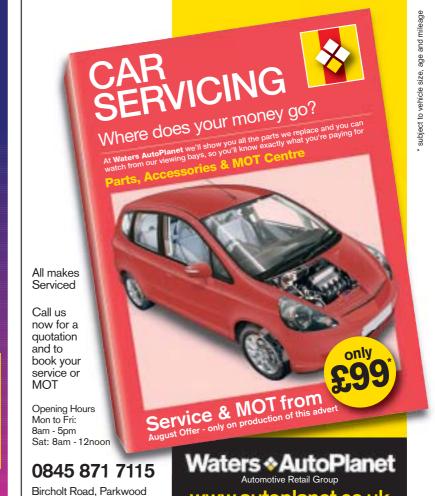
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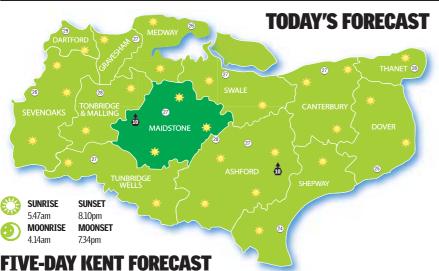
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Ashford	23°C	27°C	22°C	20°C	20°C
Canterbury	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C
Chatham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Dartford	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C
Dover	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Faversham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Folkestone	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Gravesend	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C
Maidstone	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	20°C
Ramsgate	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C
Rochester	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Sevenoaks	23°C	26°C	20°C	18°C	19°C
Sittingbourne	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Tonbridge	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C
Tun Wells	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C
				'	

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:53pm	6.5m
	Sunday	3:34pm	6.5m
Dover	Saturday	1:12pm	7.1m
	Sunday	1:52pm	7.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:11pm	8.2m
	Sunday	1:51pm	8.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:42pm	5.4m
	Sunday	2:22pm	5.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:43pm	6.lm
	Sunday	3:24pm	6.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:51pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:32pm	5.6m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	21°C	Madrid	36°C
Athens	31°C	New York	32°C
Barcelona	30°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	25°C	Rome	30°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	19°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	28°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	11°C



Support your local, urges pub landlady

A FAMILY-run pub is asking for the support of its regular punters and the community to help them survive the effects of the recession.

Figures recently released by the British Beer and Pub Association show more than 50 pubs are closing each week throughout the country, resulting in thousands of people losing their jobs.

The mass closures are being blamed on increased beer tax, cheap beer being offered in supermarkets, the smoking ban and high charges for tied pubs from the brewery compa-

The Old Plantation Inn, off Ashford Road in Bearsted, has so far managed to survive the recession, but its owners put their good luck down to their hospitality.

Landlady Judy Begg said: "I think it's all about genuinely caring about your customers. The trouble is that pubs, be it a village pub or inner-city street corner boozer like the Rover's Return in Coronation Street, are the focal point of the community.

"Lose the pub and you very often lose the heart of where you live."

The Old Plantation Inn is child and pet friendly and serves a selection of ales and larger, as well as food and offers live music nights.

For more information or to book a table call 01622 737906.



QUESTION & ANSWER



Can you tell us a little about yourself?

am a fully qualified social worker and have a masters degree in social care from Hull University, where I specialised in palliative and adult care. I was the first social worker to be based in a cancer services team in a Kent hospital, have now been a social worker for more than ten years and became Macmillan's senior social work practitioner in July. I have worked as the social worker within the cancer services team at Medway Maritime Hospital for eight years and have also worked as a social worker at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury, so I have experience of supporting a range of cancer patients.

Tell us about your role.

I work with any cancer patient, their family, carers and friends, in the early stages of their cancer diagnosis to meet their emotional and practical needs. Social needs are equally as important to address as health problems.

Now can you help them?

A cancer diagnosis can have a huge impact on families emotionally, practically and financially. Most cancer patients I see would be ineligible for a local authority social worker, so I provide an important service to many patients who would otherwise not receive this

kind of social support. Through my access to resources and specialist advice, I can give patients detailed knowledge and expertise about things like benefits, grants and housing.

How do people diagnosed with cancer get put in touch with you?

Macmillan's clinical nurse specialists refer patients to me and I have around 70 patients on my caseload. I see patients either at home or in hospital.

What financial help can Macmillan provide for cancer patients?

A Financial problems can be a huge heartache for families and some cancer patients refuse treatment until these issues are resolved. Carers and patients may have to cut their working hours or stop work completely. To help patients with the financial impact of cancer I help with applications for benefits and grants, such as Macmillan's financial grants scheme. More and more patients are applying for financial grants to pay for things like utility bills, so they're invaluable. Grants can also be used for things to help improve a person's quality of life. For example, I recently successfully applied for a grant that helped a female cancer patient buy some exercise equipment to help her feel better about herself and build her self esteem. I also secured a grant for a man undergoing dialysis who needed a low table so he could

receive treatment more comfortably at home. Grants have been given to some patients so they can do a course and gain confidence before returning to work. I also help families budget and help them apply for schemes such as the blue badge for disabled drivers.

Do you also act as a counsellor for cancer victims and their families?

Providing emotional support is a key part of what I do. Families can feel quite helpless when a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis - they often feel a lack of control. Couples may not be talking to one another and will need a safe, open environment to open up and start communicating again. The counselling is flexible - some families may have a one-off appointment, others have regular sessions.

Why are Macmillan professionals needed and should the NHS be supporting patients better?

Patients often tell me that being supported by someone not medically orientated really helps. I will explain the treatment in simple terms and clarify confusing terminology, for example, explaining terms like a domiciliary nurse or what care is provided by a hospice. We are now recruiting another Macmillan social worker who will be part of Medway Maritime's new Positive Living Team. I am proud to be part of a Macmillan professional team that provides a holistic patient experience and improves the lives of cancer patients.

The senior social work practitioner for Macmillan Cancer Support in Kent spoke to **Jon Coates** about the variety of ways the charity's professionals help cancer victims and their families across the county

Award Winning Company











Festival commemorates Kent's mining heritage. Search 'mining'.



Tom Betts samples exotic meats at acclaimed Indian restaurant. Search 'exotic'.



The Clash's Nick 'Topper' Headon opens an event for Porchlight, Search 'Headon'



The Kingfisher Trust runs boat trips for disabled people. Search 'Kingfisher'.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

It's a vine time to be a Kentish wine producer

BY CHRIS MURPHY

FOUR Kent vineyards were popping the corks after doing well at this year's Decanter World Wine Awards.

While Bordeaux, Champagne and even Chablis, may spring to mind when considering the best wines in the world, it seems Cranbrook and Tenterden need to be added to the list.

The organisers of the most influential and prestigious wine competition in the world, said the Kent winemakers have put the county on the global wine map.

The awards attracted more entries from producers across the globe than ever before, yet despite the increased competition four Kentish wineries scooped an impressive nine awards between them, including the much-sought after Regional Trophy.

The Chapel Down Winery in Tenterden scooped five medals.

They were two bronzes for its Rosé Brut NV and Pinot Reserve 2004, plus three that were commended. They were Century Extra Dry NV, plus Brut NV and Bacchus Reserve 2007. Boss Guy Tresnan said: "We are delighted to

have been recognised for the quality of our wines, particularly as these awards are international.

"After the announcement we got calls from around the world from potential trade customers and consumers, genuinely engaged by what we are doing here in the heart of the

Meopham Valley was awarded a commended for its Brut 2004, and a bronze for its Rosé Brut 2005. Owner David Grey said: "This year's success validates our wines internationally as well as validating them to our consumers.

Gusbourne Estate Vineyard in Ashford took



RAISE A GLASS: Richard Balfour-Lynn, winner of the Regional Trophy at the Decanter World Wine Awards

a bronze award for the Classic Blend 2006.

And Hush Heath Manor in Cranbrook won a Regional Trophy for its Balfour Brut Rosé.

Richard Balfour-Lynn, producer at Hush Heath, said: "We all feel enormous pride at winning the Decanter World Wine gold medal and trophy. This gives the whole team involved with Balfour Brut Rosé a huge boost and provides the encouragement to know that we are on the right track in creating an English pink fizz that can compete with the best French Rosé Champagnes.

"The passion with which we grow our grapes and make our wine, combined with enormous attention to detail, has lead to us winning this prestigious award."

Christelle Guibert, Decanter's tastings director said it was a great result for the

She said: "This is a fantastic result for UK wines and further proof, should anyone need it, that home-produced bottles can compete

at an international level.
"The raft of awards for England and Wales this year is testament to the world-class quality of locally produced wines. It is a delight to be able to showcase them in our globally recognised competition.

Kent did so well it has help convince the chairman of the awards, Steven Spurrier and his wife Bella, to pick the region to embark on their very own vineyard.

Mr Spurrier recognises the value of the Decanter World Wine Awards for UK vine-yards, and said: "I feel this year the awards have moved from being a successful wine competition into an arena where it is a beacon for wine all around the world

foodforkent.co.uk **SKOS** Campaign 2009



Raise a glass to cider

IT IS one of the biggest events in Kent's apple calendar and this year's Cider Festival lurks just around the corner.

Apple-fuelled events will kick off at Brogdale Farm on September 19. With more than 98 cider apples and 20 perry pears in the National Fruit Collection, there promises to be an array of different tipples to

It should also be a great day out for all the family, with cooking demonstrations, tours of the National Fruit Collection, live music, mini railway, horse display and a hog roast.

For more information call 01795 536250 or visit www.broq-

Deli defies recession

ENJOY the best of Kent produce in the heart of Canterbury, at a brand new deli and cafe.

Husband and wife team Adrian and Tanya used all their savings to set up The Cathedral Deli.

"Despite little support from the banks due to the economic climate, worries from families and friends and giving up secure careers, we soldiered on," Tanya said. "Within the first few days the response to our little Kentish deli and café has been amazing and defied all our critics.
"We have been full every lunchtime and the public has loved the qual-

ity of the Kent products we use in our sandwiches and home cooking."

Their menu includes Kentish rarebit, a twist on the classic Welsh dish, which uses Ashmore Cheese from Cheese Makers of Canterbury and Shepherd Neame Spitfire Ale.

Another treat is shepherd's pie made with organic lamb mince from Monkshill Farm in Faversham and a Monmouth blend used in their coffees. The deli can be found at 17b Burgate and is open from Monday to





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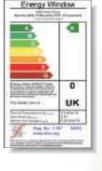
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Tamiflu risks 'outweighed by benefits' urges doctor

CHILDREN with severe swine flu who do not take Tamiflu could face serious complications and even death, a leading family doctor has warned parents.

The antiviral medicine has been mired in controversy after two studies found more than half of youngsters who took the drug suffered side effects such as nausea and nightmares.

Another study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) suggested antiviral medication does not prevent complications, such as pneumonia and severe asthma, in children with flu.

Tamiffu"

But Dr Caroline Jessel, deputy medical director at NHS West Kent, urged parents to continue giving Tamiflu and other antivirals to their children if they are prescribed.

"If the child was quite unwell and I was a parent, then the risk of taking them is Tamiflu and getting really ill with swine flu," she said.

Asked if there was a danger in parents not giving their children antivirals due to fears over side-effects, Dr Jessel said: "I think it would not be sensible to withhold it, particularly where they are severely affected.

"Some of the complications may well be prevented and the complications may be more severe and longer in duration [if Tamiflu is not taken]."

She said the number of patients being prescribed Tamiflu had fallen significantly in recent weeks, but the virus has not disappeared, she warned. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent also said that the number of people with swine flu-like symptoms in its

BY JENNA PUDELEK

"The research has thrown a different perspective on Tamiflu and helped us to understand its impact better," Dr Jessel added.

"It is not really relevant in a flu pandemic because it is based on seasonal flu. It is interesting but not necessarily going to change

"Our advice is still relatively straight forward - if symptoms are quite severe, obviously they need help and it is effective in reducing the duration and symptoms of the swine flu. For very mild cases it has always been the case not to give antivirals."

Thompson, Matthew author of the BMJ study, told New Scientist: "It may

be worth the DoH taking the new research on board and perhaps having a more targeted approach to the use of antivirals, or urgently conducting randomised controlled trials of children and adults to

identify whether there are subgroups of children who will benefit from antivirals."

Healthy children and babies under six

months old will not be among those given the vaccine against swine flu, the Government has announced.

A mass immunisation campaign, which will target more than 11 million people, focused on those whose underlying health conditions put them at risk from the pan-demic, will begin in October. The DoH said preparations were also being made to extend the programme.

Children have not been included in the first wave of vaccinations because although they are disproportionately affected by the

GPs back access to records

DOCTORS in the county have supported proposals to allow the public to view and amend their medical records online.

The suggestion, put forward by the Conservatives this week, is part of plans to

give patients more control over their records. Patients would be able to log in online to access their records, add details and share experiences with other patients.

It would also provide a resource for those who have to monitor conditions on a daily basis, who could record their findings to produce a detailed record for their doctor.

Dr Mike Parks, from the Kent Local Medical Committee, said this resource would help doctors and patients alike.

"Importantly, for patients and doctors, it would also ensure medical information is upto-date and correct," he said.

"But there would need to be some very careful safeguards in place."

It is hoped that by making access easier through the use of the internet, patients would be more likely to update their details in cases where they may normally wait until a visit to their GP.

Currently, patients have the rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 to inspect medical records. However, access often has to be applied for in writing first of all, with a payment usually required, £10 for computerised records or £50 for manual records.

Fears of poor wheat harvest

FARMERS across the county are bracing themselves for another potentially devastating wheat harvest that could cost the industry millions of pounds.

The recent poor weather has defied predictions of "a barbecue summer" and left many farmers fearing big losses.

Last year's harvest was dubbed "the worst in living memory" according to Kent's National Farmers' Union chairman Kevin Attwood.

The Downcourt Farm manager from Doddington, near Faversham, expressed concern that a repeat of 2008's harvests would have major implications.

He said: "It will make life very difficult for farmers if wheat crops are too wet and can't be used for milling.

"This means the value of them drops by 40 per cent from £130 a tonne to £90 a tonne and



they have to be used for animal feed. Wet wheat has to be dried artificially which also adds to farmers' costs considerably."

Sandra Nichols, NFU South East policy advisor shared his concerns over this season's crops – she believed the next few weeks would

prove critical.
She said: "Last year's harvest in particular was very bad. With the added costs of replacing machinery and equipment, things have been very tough."



yourmaidstoneschools



BREAK TIME

Students rock at party in the park

LARGE crowds flocked to a town centre park to watch 11 young bands and artists perform at a music festival.

Jam in the Park 2009 took place on Saturday, August 8, and was hailed a great success by its organisers — Maidstone Town Centre Management and the Cornwallis Academy. Town centre manager Bill Moss said: "I

Town centre manager Bill Moss said: I have been extremely impressed with the hard work and commitment of the students who staged the festival."

The line-up was chosen by a panel of judges from Cornwallis Academy and The Vibe magazine. Students from the academy and magazine also collected money for charity The Dandelion Time.

New Line Learning Academies communications manager Moira Mitchell said: "These students have been wonderful in organising every aspect of the festival. I'm incredibly proud of them."

The event kicked off at 1.15pm with KI, followed by Dead Reckonin, Fred Clark, As Worlds Collide, Luke Jackson, It's Alive, 22 Threats, Poppy Wilson, Harrison Davies and the After Party, The Afterstate, and The Soundcasters, who closed the show at 7pm.



JAMMING: Headline act The Soundcasters



DESIGN FOR LIFE: The competition winners and runners-up from Maidstone Grammar School for Girls with their teachers Paula Bowman, left, and Ellen Crozier, right

Winning girls have designs on future of high street

STUDENTS have created plans for how they would transform Maidstone town centre to run alongside the International High Street Design competition.

The 187 pupils from Maidstone Grammar School for Girls took part in their own competition to come up with environment-friendly proposals to attract tourists to the town.

A main aim of the project, designed by geography teacher Paula Bowman and head of history Ellen Crozier, was to exploit the beauty of the River Medway.

The pupils went on fact-finding missions to assess the town's environmental and architectural quality. They then used their findings to

BY **ANNA WHITE**

produce a presentation and impressions of what their new town centre would be like.

The competition was a cross-curricular project between the history and geography departments and was carried out in partnership with Maidstone council's cabinet member for regeneration, Cllr Malcolm Greer.

The school project was set up to reflect the council's competition, launched in January, to find an architect to win the £4 million High Street renovation contract – which also aims to increase the use of the River Medway. Cllr Greer said: "I was invited to judge the

Cllr Greer said: "I was invited to judge the school's winning project. It was clear they had spent a lot of time on it.

"After much deliberation, the winners were Amy Matthews, Ruby Stevens-Gilmour and Megan Vaughan.

"All the plans were well thought out to enhance the River Medway and reveal the town's heritage. I was especially impressed with the public art installations."

The runners-up were Harriet George, Lydia Porter, Sarah Clews and Natasha Varshney.

The school and council plan to continue working together in the new academic year to see how some of the designs might be incorporated into the town.

There will also be a reception held for the class with the Mayor of Maidstone, Peter Parvin, in September.

The winner of the council's competition was chosen earlier this year.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk





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Yanks for the criticism but the NHS is what we're stuck with

THERE'S a lot of talk this week about the National Health Service as the Americans review their own healthcare policies in a determined effort to improve things for the poor.

Naturally, most of us don't like those nasty Yanks criticising our wonderful healthcare system... even though they're probably right.

Unfortunately some Americans think the way the NHS in Britain puts people on waiting lists for treatment - for example, when they have cancer - is not the right way to do it. For some reason they believe that if you

have cancer then you should start being treated immediately. Those impatient Americans eh? They want it

all But the real problem has been how we deal

with the criticism in this country

Obviously our American friends are in the main correct and we have shown for years in Britain that we are incapable of changing the

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NHS in any meaningful way.

But on TV and in newspapers politicians from all parties are falling over themselves to say how much we love the NHS and how bril-

Gordon Brown, and his wife, even felt inspired to say so on Twitter (which is some sort of blogging site for self-obsessed writers with even shorter attention spans than their readers, apparently).

But the real issue with our health service remains that no matter how poor it is in certain areas, every political party needs the support of its workers - as the NHS is the biggest employer in Britain.

So, any politician who suggests cuts, job losses or changes, had better beware.

In the seventies I remember Alan Whicker interviewing a Brit who was working as a doctor in the USA. I was disturbed to hear the man describe the NHS as "good first aid".

It stuck with me and I suppose I still believe

Like many public sector employers, the NHS

is overstaffed. I sat waiting for a 9am appointment the other week, watching the number of admin workers chattering away and gossiping

But in Britain, I fear we are stuck with what

I am also interested in how the USA is deal-

ing with swine flu.
Unlike most of Europe, the Americans are suffering as badly as we are but I bet they are not simply letting people call up to be diagnosed on the phone like we are in Britain.

It is all too easy to confuse swine flu with far more serious illnesses, like Legionnaire's disease, meningitis and even tonsillitis, all of which have killed after being mis-diagnosed.

You couldn't risk that in the USA: a patient sent packing with Tamiflu who then died from meningitis would ensure a legion of lawyers on your case.

Incidentally, 49 people in Britain have died from swine flu so far – every year 4,000 people die from ordinary flu in Britain, so try to keep a sense of proportion.

GET IN TOUCH.

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk



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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor, Jon Coates, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 500 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town

log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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MY LIFE TURNED AROUND!

I would like to thank the doctor and staff of the Chatham Chinese Herbal Centre, 117 Pentagon Shopping Centre. 18th June 2008

For the last three months I have suffered from excruciating headaches and combined arthritis of the neck, turning me from a very active and lively person to a virtually disabled with no energy or stamina giving me a very painful and poor quality of life with no forseeable end to my problem - until I had a FREE consultation at the Chinese Herbal Centre with a course of acupuncture and a herbal prescription it turned my life around. I am beginning to feel my old self again and gradually getting my energy back. I found the staff very helpful, courteous and friendly and would not hesitate to use

acupuncture again. Signed Mr Paul Roberts

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Calendar Girls tickets and VIP

safari at Port Lympne

KOS MEDIA has teamed up with The Aspinall Foundation, which is the charity that runs both Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks in Kent, to offer readers the chance to win TWO tickets to see the amazing, high-flying West End production, Calendar Girls next month. PLUS you win a VIP tour around Port Lympne for up to

four people, including The African Experience

So, you can enjoy a totally wild night at the theatre and help save rare and endangered animals at the same time!

The theatre experience includes seeing the new stage play with an all-star cast including a post show meet with some of the cast over a glass of wine and a theatre programme between two.

This is a definite must for your diary: Friday, September 18 at 7.30pm at The Noel Coward Theatre, St Martins Lane. As well as this fantastic theatre experience, the exclu-

sive VIP tour at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is an added bonus and includes free entrance to the park for the day for four people, a personal, 90-minute guided tour through the park and animal enclosures, by Land-Rover.

This is a unique opportunity to get up close to the animals. Visit totallywild.net for more information about Port Lympne and The African Experience.

VIP tours to Port Lympne and theatre tickets to see Calendar Girls with The Aspinall Foundation are bookable

if you don't win of course.

The package price for a Calendar Girls ticket through The Aspinall Foundation is $\pounds 67.50$ each.

To book a theatre trip and for more information visit: www.totallywild.net and click on Calendar Girls or call 0844 482 5143 and quote "Totally Wild" (this line is open for bookings Monday to Saturday 10am-8pm).

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Calendar Girls Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Closing date is Wednesday, August 26,

Question: Which Theatre in London could you get to see the Calendar Girls?

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TALK TIME

KAROL STEELE

The actress from Kent tell us about working with Julia Roberts' niece and gives an insight into her latest film.



How did you first get involved in acting?

My son has always been interested in acting and when the Blackfish Academy opened up in Dover in 2005 I went down with him and they started auditioning for Hood, the first musical they put on.

The co-director came out and said "we need some older women" and pointed at me. I went in, said my piece and ended up getting a principal role.

I thought I was going to crack up because it was the first time I'd been on stage since I was at school but on the opening night there were no nerves, nothing, it was a wonderful feeling.

You featured in the summer flick Wild Child with Aidan Quinn and Emma Roberts. How did you get involved in that?

The agency I was with at the time was contracted to find extras for the film so I got in that way. They sent off my picture and CV.

How was it working with Aidan Quinn and Julia Roberts' niece?

Emma Roberts is just so sweet. Seeing her running around with all the British actresses, messing about, I thought it was wonderful.

Aidan Quinn was lovely – he said he was doing the film for the money and once he'd been paid he was taking his family away on holiday.

[The late] Natasha Richardson was lovely and I had the surprise of my life one day when I was getting a coffee and this deep, Irish voice said "That coffee smells lovely" – I turned around and it was Natasha's husband, Liam Neeson.

YOUR LETTERS



I saw the bunny side to posters

I can't believe the outcry over a few posters of a rabbit on crack being put up around the town.

I found them something interesting and different to look at and think about – which is surely what the artists intended.

Its is amusing to see councillors and town centre managers get in such a fluster over a few posters and stickers.

Surely there are much more important things for the bureaucrats to get hot and bothered about?

Why not get on with making the town centre look more attractive to shoppers, making it easier to park and improving leisure facilities for young people?

Or let's be revolutionary and find a way of using the river as an asset inside of an eyesore.

But at the least the predictable 'outrage' over the posters will have given the artists what they wanted.

Last year a series of wooden scarecrows called The Hei People were out in fields throughout

Section 1 - Section 1 - Section 2 - Section 2 - Section 2 - Section 2 - Section 3 - Sectio

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north Kent to see how people would react.

Predictably, vandals ripped a lot of them up, which told the Finnish artist all he needed to know about the English 'yob culture'.

I'm sure Jonny Darko and

Team Crack put the rabbit posters up around Maidstone and sat back waiting for councillors to spout off... and predictably again – they have obliged.

Carl Hill, from Maidstone, by email.

Harmless posters just a different view

I feel that these posters are harmless and interesting.

I have heard people walking about Maidstone pointing them out and talking about them, and not in a negative way.

I feel that Jonny Darko' and 'Team Crack' are bringing something different and arty to the town of Maidstone, and I would be interested to see different images also.

K, from Maidstone, comment posted on

K, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk



Bar closure is a Source of irritation

The whole raid on the Source Bar was and can only be described, as a joke from a jealous person who has too much power.

The truth is it was assumed as a drug-taking, dealing club, yet there is no evidence of this.

You don't have to look far in this town to see who runs it and it's not the public.

Kevin Jamieson, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk



There's allot of need for more land

Kent Green Party is calling upon all councils in Kent and Medway to amend their Local Development Framework documents to allocate more land to allotments.

People are buying more seeds for growing than ever before.

Similarly, demand for allotments is growing so fast that waiting lists mean people may wait decades for an allotment.

When people are responding to the recession by trying to grow more of their own food, we need local councils to step in and increase the amount of land available for allotments.

Kent Green Party wants all the local councils in Kent to allocate more land under their Local Development Frameworks to allotments.

A typical allotment in the UK attracts 30 applicants and will save a user about £950 a year on food.

Recent research suggests six million people in the UK would like an allotment but there are currently only about 206,000 allotment plots.

Kent Green Party suggests councils look for new allotment sites.

Industrial estate land empty more than two years could be put to better use.

Allotments are a much better use of some flood prone sites than housing

And what about agricultural land

adjacent to urban areas?

There is ample evidence of demand

for allotments throughout Kent.

Also, under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, councils actually have a duty to provide allotments where there is demand for them in their area.

Dr Hazel Dawe, chair of Kent Green Party,

Running your breast for cancer charity

It's back - the Adidas Women's 5K Challenge is returning to London next month and Breast Cancer Campaign wants you on its Guardian Angels team.

Thousands of women will descend on Hyde Park for the 5K race on Sunday, September 6 and the charity wants to encourage runners to fly around the course while raising money for breast cancer research.

By joining the Guardian Angels team, named after the campaign's breast awareness ambassador, every runner will receive a pair of pink fairy wings, a professional Ronhill running vest and support throughout their training.

Last year 456 runners joined our Guardian Angels team and raised more than £38,000 for breast cancer research.

If you would like to become a Guardian Angel, please contact 020 7749 3700 or email womenschallenge@breastcancercampaign.org.

Cecilia Owen, Guardian Angels leader for Breast Cancer Campaign, by email.

Don't let meningitis be misdiagnosed

I lost my young daughter to meningitis and was extremely concerned to read the news of two-year-old Georgia Keeling.

She was misdiagnosed with swine flu and died from meningitis just three hours later.

Doctors thought my daughter Jessica, also two, had a gastric infection and she died from the devastating disease the very next day.

Sadly, both their deaths show how difficult it is to confuse meningitis with less-deadly and more common diseases, like flu.

Hearing how Georgia died from meningitis just three hours after paramedics gave her Tamiflu should hopefully remind people how important it is to know the symptoms of meningitis and not confuse it with illnesses like swine flu.

In babies, an unusual cry, dislike of being handled and refusing feeds

can indicate meningitis.
Other signs include a headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, cold hands and feet, fever, vomiting, confusion and drowsiness.

If you suspect something's seriously wrong with your child then please persist and make sure they get the treatment they deserve.

Please call the charity on $0117\ 373$ 7373 or visit www.meningitisuk.org for a free information pack.

Kelly Crisp, from Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, by email.

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KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

A must have for every home

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Ewbank have been producing non-electric carpet sweepers for over a century and their products are still regarded as the best in the world. This Evolution II manual carpet sweeper is no exception. Just as you would expect, it is lightweight and easy to use. It needs no electricity and is an easy and convenient way to clean your carpets and floors at a moment's notice.



The Evolution II is available in silver for £29.99 and makes a perfect companion for your vacuum cleaner.



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 (15)



John Travolta stars as a criminal mastermind who hijacks a New York subway train with Denzel Washington as the train dispatcher caught up in negotiations in this action-packed movie remake.

THE PROPOSAL (12A)



Sandra Bullock returns to sparkling form in this screwball romantic comedy as the boss from hell who forces assistant Ryan Reynolds to marry her to avoid being deported back to her native Canada.

G.I. JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA (12A)



Based on the popular action figures, this action adventure from Stephen Sommers stars Channing Tatum, Marlon Wayans, Sienna Miller and former Doctor Who Christopher Eccleston.

Hugh's a charming man both on and off screen

BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

IN ROM-COM land, a man who can't say "I love you" never gets the girl.

Yet romantic indie film Adam breaks all the rules, featuring a leading man who has no idea what love is.

Living with a form of autism known as Asperger's syndrome, Adam (played by Hugh Dancy) is a kind and humblingly straightforward man, unable to relate to emotions.

"I did think of it as the 'anti-acting' role," explains Dancy, last seen opposite Isla Fisher in Confessions of a Shopaholic.

"Everything you usually bring to a role, like empathy, connection, communication and reaction were denied me."

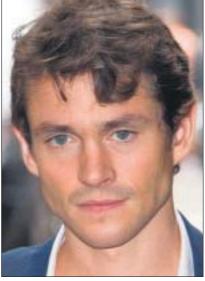
In the film, Adam embarks upon a relationship with Beth, played by Rose Byrne from hit American TV show Damages, and while Adam's future love is challenged by his disability, he also lives a genuinely free life.

"There's no agenda to Adam, no dishonesty, no duplicity, and he consistently says the things that we all wish we could say but that are barred by social convention," says Hugh.

Sitting on the edge of the sofa, Dancy is the archetypal English gent. Charming, well-spoken and articulate, he's dressed in an understated outfit of jeans, white shirt and grey jacket.

"There aren't many scripts like this," he adds. "I started reading it and had no idea what the story was and just thought, 'What's up with this guy?'."

"When Adam announces he has the condition, I was intrigued. First of all there was some justification for all the questions I'd had, and secondly I thought what a brave, intelligent way to tell that story, to not announce it up front but to let the audience, through Rose's



TOUGH ROLE: Hugh Dancy plays Asperger's sufferer Adam

character, get to know him as a human being."
Knowing nothing about Asperger's syndrome, Hugh realised he had a lot of work ahead of him if he was to do justice to the role.

As part of his research he visited people who live with Asperger's, often known as 'aspies'.

"The ones who agreed to sit and talk to me were incredibly generous and frank," he says.

"I realised that the range of behaviour and symptoms is vast and that freed me up in a way because I thought, Well I'm not trying to play every person with Asperger's."

Made in just 22 days on location in New York, Hugh says during filming he had a

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



deep-set fear that no one would see it.

His worries proved unfounded and the film proved a success when it was shown at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival.

Although he's making waves in Hollywood, Hugh's resolute there's no permanent move to LA planned. "God no, my home is here in London, nowadays more in New York as well for personal reasons."

By this he refers to his recent engagement to New York-based actress Claire Danes, whom he met on the set of Evening in 2007.

As Adam makes some poignantly romantic gestures in the film, it seems only fitting to ask Hugh what the most romantic thing he's ever done is. "I've taken someone away on a surprise holiday," he says, after a pause.



YOU CAN WATCH ANY OF THESE FILM PREVIEWS OF THE LATEST MOVIES BY LOGGING ON TO LEISURE TV @ yourkenttv.co.uk







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Feel and look your best

■ Botanical Beauty

SIX therapists work at the salon Botanical Beauty, which is established as one of the most popular in Maidstone for people who want to be sure they look their best.

Seven therapy rooms are on hand to offer manicures, pedicures, waxing, facials, electric

facials and spray tanning.

Other popular treatments include massage, reflexology, reiki, eyelash and nail extensions, and wedding make-up.

Best quality brands are always used to ensure the best possible results. These

include Decleor, Matis, Jessica, St Tropez, IBD Gel, The Edge and Nouveaulashes.

The salon has been in business for 11 years and in that time has built up a reputation as the best of its type in the area with a large number of regular clients only too keen to spread the word to other discerning people.

Owner Nikki Creelman has spent a while building up her client list and knows that trust and support is the main factor in making sure customers stay loyal.

The success of her business bares testimo-

ny to the truth of her business philosophy.

The atmosphere in the salon, which is

tucked above the Golden Boot, is very relaxed and friendly, and all staff are fully qualified.

Customers can relax before and after treat-

ment, and read a magazine over a cup of tea or coffee in the lounge area

Most popular treatments are facials, nail extensions and waxings. However, in summer pedicures and tanning are also popular.

The salon is open from 9am to 5.30pm Monday and Friday, 9am to 7pm Tuesday and Thursday, and 9am to 5pm Wednesday and Saturday

Current offers include £25 for a full set of nail extensions, £20 for St Tropez tanning and free toe painting with reflexology or Indian head massage treatment.

Eyelash extensions are another bargain at

• Botanical Beauty, 25 Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone, ME15 6HR. Call 01622 661300, or visit www.botanicalbeauty.co.uk

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TOP TIPS

Base Fitness

Diet is a key factor to enjoying a healthy lifestyle. Any change in your diet should be one that you are prepared to make for life, so you should always try to keep your goals

Call 01622 844625.

Village Hotel

It may stress you out just to think about exercising, but once you start working out, you'll experience less stress in every part of your life. Exercise is also said to lift your mood and keep depression at bay. Call

Churchill Clinic

Make sure before you step into the sun this summer you are prepared. Use factor 25-plus sun protective cream. Sun-damaged skin can be treated with intense pulse light laser. Call Churchill Clinic on 01634 832678 or Lockmeadow Clinic on 0845 601 9982.

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Internationally renowned for home textiles and interior design, Sanderson, has created this fabulous bedding which is ideal for any home.

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Hang out at Bav festival

From cockney legends Chas 'n' Dave to dance theatre and graffiti art, there's something to please everyone

HERNE BAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 22, to Sunday, August 30 Various venues, Herne Bay



COCKNEY legends Chas'n' Dave are among the highlights of this year's Herne Bay Festival.

The hugely popular duo will be performing a concert of their greatest hits, such as Rabbit, Ain't No Pleasing You and Sideboard Song, as the headline act at Rock Around The Clock on Saturday, August 29.

Local bands have the chance to appear on the bill by competing in a competition being run during the festival. The lucky winners will receive studio time and recordings worth £500, as well as the chance to support Chas 'n' Dave at the concert.

There will be plenty of opportunities for audience participation at Let's Dance, a fun-filled day of free dance demonstrations which opens the festival this Saturday. A shimmering twilight procession with a sea theme will make its way along the seafront on Saturday evening, before a spectacular firework display marks the festival's official opening.

Sunday sees more family fun at the Cherry Orchard playing field, along with a coastal ramble, sailing demonstration race at the pier and more sailing action at the Memorial Park

Whether people want to demonstrate their building prowess in the sandcastle competition, fly a kite or take part in the family cycle ride along the coast, there are lots of ways to get involved in the festival.

Teenagers will not be left out of the fun as music workshops have been arranged just for them.

Young people aged 12 and above are invited to take part in a free workshop at the ACF Drill Hall on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, when they can tell stories about their favourite hang-outs and work with artists to set them to

The results will be uploaded at www.whatareyoudoinghere.co.uk to



create a virtual map showing the best places to hang out in the district.

Teenagers can also take part in the Freestylin' @ the Bay urban workshops, which take place at various venues, encompassing graff art, street dance, clothes customising and more, followed by a showcase event at the Bandstand on Friday, August

With children's, sports and arts events also on offer, along with performances by MAD project winners, Katy Hirst and Rhiannon Lane, there is something to suit every

Full festival listings can be found on the website at www.hernebayfest ival.co.uk or in the free programmes.

To request a copy call 01227 862201 or alternatively email cassy. fry@canterbury.gov.uk.





with

JANE CONNOLLY





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DELLOW TRIALS

Saturday, August 22 The Sussex Arms, Tunbridge Wells

A QUIRKY and respected sports car is celebrated at a pub in The Pantiles this weekend.

The Dellow sports car is a much-loved, two-seater vehicle which was originally built at Alvechurch, near Birmingham, and used extensively in competitive events such as trials, hill climbs, sprints, rallies and driving tests.

The strength and durability of the original design – which used Ford engines and gearboxes and redundant rocket tubes for the tubular chassis - means that Dellows still compete in

classic trials today.

The Dellow Trials Car
Display will give motoring
enthusiasts the chance to admire these fascinating cars, meet their owners and find out more about the



their own Dellow is welcome to take it car along and, although records of cars are held in the Dellow Register, they would be pleased to find any cars thought to have disappeared.

The event runs 9.30am to 5.30pm

Enthusiasts who would like more information can call organiser Nick Woollett on 01892 520505 or 07905 460942 or visit www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

HALEY SISTERS

Sunday, August 30 Pizza Express, Maidstone



EXPERIENCE two Britain's finest female country voices when the Haley Sisters return to Maidstone next week.

With their rootsy, acoustic album No Boundaries released on their own label, Comet Records - Jo Ann and Becky Haley have been making a big impact on the music scene. Their fans include BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris, who has been playing their tracks on both his country and rock shows and described their harmonies as 'exquisite and captivating'.

Since the pair took to the road as teenagers, they have recorded in Nashville and supported Daniel O'Donnell on two sell-out theatre tours.

Their new six-track EP, Vicissitude, features stripped-down versions of



Bob Marley's Three Little Birds, Bob Dylan's Don't Think Twice, JJ Cale's You Keep Me Hanging On and their self-penned song, We're Together.

The highlight is perhaps their spine-tingling version of Bill Staines' Roseville Fair. Their guest for the evening will be Lilly of the West – known as Lilly Drumeva – one of Bulgaria's top country and folk performers.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and advance tickets cost £10. To book call 01622 744481.

A DATE WITH NATURE

Until Sunday, September 13 Leeds Castle, near Maidstone



DISCOVER the challenges of rearing a family in the nat-ural world by making A Date with Nature at Leeds Castle.

For the rest of the summer, visitors can join the experts to watch resident birds as they attempt to complete the breeding cycle. Water birds such as great crested grebes moorhens and coots hatched young in June, but that is not the end of their task as parents. Now they must get their offspring to stand on their own webbed feet, in order to send the fledglings off into the world.

Experts from the RSPB will be on hand with telescopes and binoculars to help visitors witness this fascinating stage of the young birds' development. Human broods



A Date with Nature runs

from 10.30am to 4.30pm, every day except Wednesday.

Castle's lakes

Castle admission

£16.50/£13.50 for adults, £9.50 for children and is free for under-fours. For information about the event call 01273 775333 or visit www.rspb.org.uk/datewithnature.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Little monkeys invited to learn about Darwin

CHILDREN are invited to monkey around and learn about Darwin's theory

of evolution at Maidstone Museum.

On Monday under-12s can make a monkey door hanger, as part of the Darwin Mondays programme. The sessions run from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Admission to the event costs £2.

For more information visit the website at www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602838.

Take your partner for arts centre tea dance

DANCERS are invited to trip the light fantastic at the Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone this week.

A tea dance is being held in the Exchange Studio tomorrow, starting at 2pm. Admission costs £2.75 per person.

For more information call 01622 758611 or visit the website at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Adult fun promised at pub's comedy night

GET ready for an evening of laughter when Miklós Galla visits the Walnut Tree in Maidstone.

Galla is the latest comic to perform at the weekly stand-up comedy night at the pub in Tonbridge Road. The adult-only show starts at 9.30pm tomorrow night and admission is free. For more information call the pub on 01622 720926

How to publicise your event on these pages

WOULD you like to see your event pub-

licised on these pages?

Send full details including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication. If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best to promote local events.

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Small changes make

BY ANNA WHITE

SHOPPERS are being encouraged to be more eco-friendly to reduce Maidstone's carbon footprint.

Throughout next week, Maidstone Town Management will be running the Make it Maidstone - Make it Green event, supported

by Yourmaidstone.

The week, which starts on Monday, is organised in association with Countrystyle Waste Management and Kent County Council, as well as being supported by

"We just want people to explore their options . . . it may not work for everyone, but you won't know unless you try,"

Town centre manager Bill Moss on Maidstone Goes Green Week

Maidstone council, and will see a series of green-inspired exhibitions across the town

Exhibitions will include advice on recycling, waste management, reducing your foodwaste, cutting your fuel costs at home and for your car, insulation, cycling, car-sharing and many more tips for greener living.

Town centre manager Bill Moss said: "We are encouraging the whole community to work together so that Maidstone leads the way in slowing down climate change.

"Even small changes in our lifestyle can make a huge difference – and they can save you money as well."

Events will be held at the Royal Star Arcade, Mall Chequers and Fremlin Walk throughout the Maidstone Goes Green Week.

Maidstone's Green Week will also be the perfect opportunity to reinforce the town's

Bin the Bag campaign, which aims to cut the use of plastic bags for shoppers and traders.

The town's iconic bag lady will be in Earl Street on Thursday, August 27, wearing her dress made completely of plastic carrier bags, handing out paper bags in exchange for plastic ones, between noon and 2pm.

Activities

Cycles UK will be running a free health check in Fremlin Walk on Wednesday and Friday next week, and on Thursday shoppers will be able to join the fun by making their own smoothie drink using pedal power.

Eco-friendly shoppers can pick-up an entry form from the Royal Star Arcade throughout the week to be in with a chance of winning a free compost bin from Maidstone council. Also at the arcade from Monday to Friday

will be a team from the Invicta Cycle Training organisation, who will be on hand to give out top tips about bike riding.

The Green Week will culminate on Friday, August 28, with Maidstone's second In Town Without My Car Day, when everyone coming into the town will be urged to ditch the car and choose a more eco-friendly mode of travel.

Mr Moss said: "We like to make life as easy as possible for ourselves and cars help us do that. But we're all guilty of driving to the shops when we really could have walked, or thinking it's the end of the world if we have to walk a few yards because we can't park just where we want to. I have to hold my hands up

and say I've done both.
"And that is bad for our health, bad for our wallets and bad for the planet. It increases air







our town more green





GOING GREEN: County council staff cycle to make smoothies at last year's event, while one shopper claims his free mini breakfast. Opposite the town's iconic bag lady, recycling your plastic bags

pollution and contributes to global warming. And it's even worse when there's only one person in the car.

"We just want people to explore their options. Many people who drive to work now could get there much more cheaply and quickly - and be much healthier and happier if they didn't drive. It may not work for everyone, but you won't know unless you try."

For those who do make their way into town without their car on Friday there will be a

Maidstone Goes Green Week

an Arriva 1 or 4 week Saver and

Maidstone Park & Ride 10-trip ticket

Valid: 23rd August to

6th September 2009 inclusive. Valid in part payment for the purchase of an adult Arriva Maidstone, Maidstone Plus or South East 1 or 4 week saver and Maidstone Park & Ride 10-trip ticket. Not valid for online or mobile phone purchases.

Normal price from £10.00 One voucher per person per purchase.

Photocopies not accepted. Voucher to be retained by Arriva.

£2.50 of

free mini breakfast available for them outside the Town Hall, in the High Street, including fruit juice, an apple and a croissant

People who can't leave their cars at home or walk into town can still reduce their carbon footprint for the day by using public transport or sharing lifts.

Bus companies Arriva and Nu-Venture are showing their support to the scheme by offering money-saving vouchers through Your maidstone and Maidstone Town Centre Man-

agement (see below). Arriva is offering free travel for one person on all Maidstone routes on Friday, and Arriva is offering £2.50 off the price of a one-week or four-week saver ticket, or a ten-trip Maidstone Park and Ride ticket valid between August 23 and September 6.

Mr Moss added: "Small changes add up to big benefits for Maidstone. We really hope as many people as possible will take up the challenge and cut pollution and congestion in the town centre.

NU-VENTURE

Have a FREE BUS RIDE on us

This voucher allows free travel for one person on all NU-VENTURE local bus routes on Friday 28th August only. Please complete the form prior to boarding.

Normal route used:

If you do not wished to be contacted for the use of

For details of all Nu-Venture bus times please call

In town without your car?

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Royal Star Arcade, High Street, Maidstone 01622 764570 Webite: www.pregalicious.co.uk

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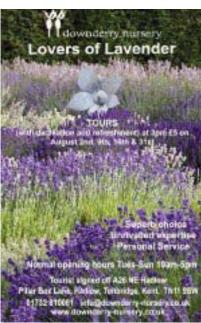






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yourmaidstonestyle



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This page was compiled with the assistance of Fremlin Walk in Maidstone

MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Ghostly signing of new Ancient Darkness book

BESTSELLING children's Michelle Paver will launch the final book in her Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series this weekend.

She will attend a book-signing at Waterstone's, Bluewater, at noon on Sunday, when fans can buy her new novel, Ghost Hunter.

Ghost Hunter is published by Orion Children's Books and priced at £10.99. For more information, call the store on 01322 624831.

Picture-perfect look at county's motoring past

CAR lovers will be fascinated by a new book on the history of motoring in Kent.

From the earliest days of The Horseless Carriage Exhibition to the vehicles of the Second World War, this interesting book uses 300 black-and-

white images to illustrate its story.
Written by Tim Harding and Bryan
Goodman, Motoring Around Kent: The
First Fifty Years is published by
Amberley and priced at £12.99.

Be more beautiful and **Transform your life**

IF a perfect beach body is proving elusive, Transform Maidstone can help you get in shape for your holiday.

The cosmetic-surgery provider claims to transform lacklustre winter skin with a microdermabrasion procedure, leaving a smooth base for your tan. Iron out wrinkles with Botox and feel great in a bikini with hair-removal technique The Quantum Intense Pulsed Light Laser.

For a free consultation or brochure, call 0500 595959 or visit www.transform

Natural Aussie skincare launches at Debenhams

AUSTRALIA'S fastest-growing beauty brand, Natio, is now available in Kent. With expertise developed over four

generations, the range of skincare and cosmetics has evolved from a family business over 75 years. Ingredients are derived from plant extracts and essential oils to create pure, gentle skincare.

Natio products are available from Debenhams in Chatham and Gravesend. To celebrate the launch, the stores are offering a Launch Value Set worth £45. The set includes six products and retails at just £20

Digital technology at bargain Factory price

GET switched on to the best technology and snap up a TV/DVD combo at The Original Factory Shop in Deal. The 15.4in LCD television and DVD

player combination also boasts built-in digital Freeview. Customers can buy the set for just £99 while stocks last.

For more information, visit the store or go online at www.theoriginal factoryshop.co.uk.





yourmaidstonemusic

Farmhouse celebrates first birthday as Format returns

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

PARTY poppers, streamers and gifts at the ready, music fans – The Farmhouse is set to celebrate its first birthday later this month.

The Canterbury venue will turn one on Saturday, August 22, and has lined up one of the country's finest turntable connoisseurs in DJ Format to help set the anniversary proceedings off.

The Southampton-born DJ burst onto the hip hop scene six years ago with his critically-acclaimed debut release Music for the Mature B-Boy.

If you don't know the album, hunt a copy down. But before you do, make sure you take a peek at the video for Format's most famous hit, We Know Something You Don't Know, featuring Jurassic 5 MCs Chali 2na and Akil.

That's if fluffy breakdancing animals are your thing.

But back to the birthday bash. The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was

looking forward to the big night.

"The rather wonderful DJ Format was one of the best DJs we had at The Farmhouse during our first year so we're delighted to announce that he'lll be bringing the dusty breaks, rare grooves, soul classics and the rawest of rock and r 'n' b to the party for us.

"He's genuinely one of the nicest guys in hip hop, something of a British legend and rapidly becoming a Canterbury favourite after some scintillating performances both at Lounge On The Farm and The Farmhouse."

 $Support \quad on \quad the \quad night \quad comes \quad from \quad$



BIRTHDAY GUESTS: DJ Format, above, will be at the gig, while Casiokids, right, will be performing later this year

Comfyporn, DJ Shallow and Readybreak.

Farmhouse chiefs have wasted no time in booking up acts to perform during their second year of business, with the calendar up to Christmas already boasting a host of top music names.

These include Don Letts, The Dub Pistols, Casiokids, Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir and the James Taylor Quartet.

The birthday gig runs from 9pm to 2am. Entry costs £6. For more information and listings visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.



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PIANO MAN: Richard J Lewis tickles the ivories for your pleasure in Folkestone



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TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

Neonhalo - 27/8 The Beercart Arms Canterbury
 The Suspects - 29/8 The New Inn Minster-in-Thanet
 Backburner - 12/9 The Park Inn Folkestone
 Salvador Charlie - 18/9 Barnaby Rudge Broadstairs
 Euston - 25/9 The Hop Inn St Margarets





Inside your pull-out supplement

- Signs the recession is beginning to slow
- Why credit cards are an economic headache
- Have you been mis-sold a PPI policy?
- Research reveals shocking rise in fraud
- What one council is doing to help business
- Corporate retail property the low-down
- Cashing in on your old gold

- A good time to buy a new car
- Recession-busting motoring
- Scrappage scheme goes full throttle
- Road tax: the best ways to save

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to download vouchers from our great savings booklets



what's inside

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With many of us suffering from reduced incomes and unemployment on the increase. we look at the new fear that credit-card debts could trigger more economic suffering

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With all the confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, we help you educate yourself on what it is, whether you need it, and how to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to

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Money fraud is at its highest level in decades. We discover how the recession has led to the financial crime rate almost doubling in a year in the South East

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Find out what one council is doing to help businesses with a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up

Page 12

David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working out of the Maidstone office of Christie + Co reveals why this

sector is less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the economy as the down-turn does its worst

Pages 14-15

When you see full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash. Take a look at the returns...

Page 16

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge when you drive away a new car

thanks to big discounts at the moment

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Downsizing to a more fuel and tax efficient car is just one way you can save money. Steve Loader gives more tips on cheaper motoring

Page 18

The Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car with talk of a top-up donation, so get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger

Page 19

Don't rush to change your car for one with less tax. There are other things to consider first...

Essential guide to where you can save

- Lexterten Furniture in Westgate on Sea is offering £100 off elevating TV cabinets
- Oliver Carpets Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £600
- Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering dine in the Verve Grill and upgrade a 6oz fillet steak to an 8oz or a 10oz sirloin for the
- JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all lift and rise chairs, and motion beds
- KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, saving you time and money and using up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free tomato and mozzarella flatbread when you buy a bottle of rose wine in the Victory pub
- Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off all bikes
- Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent off all food and beverages
- Robins and Day Maidstone Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.99 services, and MOTs from £119.99
- KOS is offering a Pulsar military style chronograph watch, save £20 with the offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

To get these offers go to: www.vouchersforkent.co.uk TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Signs of economic life spotted

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the rise, but there are also a few signs that the economic situation may be on the turn – or at least it may not be getting worse at quite the same rate.

In this issue of Money Matters we hear from one expert on the retail sector who says many businesses are holding their own, and why the commercial property sector is still attracting plenty of buyers.

That's not to say that individuals and businesses aren't in need of some help, and in the coming pages there are details of

schemes offering assistance, and plenty of good advice to help you keep on top of your own financial affairs.

And to raise a smile during the summer months, visit vouchersforkent.co.uk where there are hundreds of money-saving offers waiting for you.

There are booklets for motors

and servicing; leisure, food and drink: retail trades and services: and Canterbury Independent Traders.

Simply flick through the booklets, download the vouchers you want, and start saving money when you grab a bargain.

It just couldn't be easier to be kind to your bank balance.

FOR ALL THE INFORMATION ON HOW TO INCLUDE YOUR BUSINESS ON **VOUCHERSFORKENT.CO.UK TELEPHONE KOS MEDIA ON 01303 817150**



BV ALEX HOAD

THE number of failing businesses in the region has continued to rise, but the rate of increase has slowed considerably this quarter – leading to talk the recession may be bottoming-out.

A new report from business information provider Equifax showed that while year-onyear figures showed the number of businesses going under was up almost 40 per cent, the rate of increase from the first quarter to quarter two had almost come to a standstill.

Neil Munroe, External Affairs Director of Equifax, believes UK businesses may be starting to recover from the sharp downturn which started in the middle of 2008. He said: "While the year-on-year figures are

He said: "While the year-on-year figures are pretty stark this is not surprising – in quarter two last year the downturn had only just started to hit companies.

"But I believe it is actually more relevant to look at how businesses are faring quarter by quarter this year.

"Our figures show that overall there was only a 2.2 per cent increase in businesses going under in quarter two compared to quarter one, and in the South East there was a quarter-on-quarter rise of just 1.8 per cent."

quarter rise of just 1.8 per cent."

Mr Munroe warned: "Undoubtedly the recession is still having an enormous impact on business fortunes with many organisations simply unable to survive against the onslaught of falling sales and restricted access to funding to cover the cash-flow gaps.

"But our figures seem to suggest that we could have hit the bottom by the time we reached the end of the second quarter and in some areas there is an improvement, albeit small"

He added: "Of course, the next question has to be whether we are going to see the sustained upturn of a V-shaped recession or



ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY: A new report shows UK businesses may be starting to recover from the sharp downturn which started in the middle of 2008

Ш

Signs recession is beginning to slow

whether this is just a small pre-summer blip and failures increase again, more typical of Wshaped recession."

Equifax's Business Failures Report also showed the sectors hit the earliest and hardest in the recession appear to be starting to turn the corner.

Retail has shown the greatest improvement, with a near 12 per cent drop in failures quarter on quarter, and wholesale has also improved with a 5.1 per cent drop in businesses going under.

In construction a 4.1 per cent drop in failures seems to suggest the sector is also starting to

recover, while transport and communications saw a four per cent drop in failures from quarter one to quarter two.

The only sectors still struggling are services, with a near 11 per cent increase in failures quarter on quarter, and manufacturing, with a rise of almost three per cent.



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Card debts set to cause even more financial headaches

By JEREMY GATES

WITH unemployment expected to top four million and many households already suffering from reduced income, there are fears that massive credit-card debts could trigger more economic turmoil.

Britain, where consumer debt in proportion to income has climbed above 170 per cent, is seen as more vulnerable to such a crisis than European countries and the United States, where the International Monetary Fund fears 14 per cent of consumer debt will turn sour.

The IMF believes consumer debt losses in Europe could hit £1.5bn – much of it in Britain.

A lot of this debt, such as sub-prime mortgages, was securitised – passed on to new holders – and the Financial Times warned that the impact could extend beyond banks, possibly hitting insurance companies and pension funds.

Our plastic-fuelled spending spree is unravelling fast. Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion, but with average interest rates at 18 per cent – or 36 times current Bank base rate – that's a big strain on the 40 per cent of card-holders who pay interest on outstanding balances.

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk believes that card companies may have kept their rates high in defence against the looming problems

ing problems.

He said: "If the debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent. I see big write-offs coming, as an increasing trend."

Over two years, the noose has slowly

Over two years, the noose has slowly drawn tighter on those who have overspent. The old trick – keep switching debt to new cards with 0 per cent balance transfers – is harder to pull off as providers tighten terms.

Capital One, a leading provider, has withdrawn 0 per cent balance transfers altogether. Barclaycard's 0 per cent offer on balance



MOUNTING DEBT: If people's debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent

transfers is down from 14 months to 12 and other providers – including Royal Bank of Scotland and its brands, and HSBC – restrict balance transfers to existing customers

"Nearby everybody who could qualify for Virgin Money's 0 per cent balance transfer for 16 months has probably got it by now," Hagger says. "It's been the first port of call for a long time.

Hagger notes that a few products remain for clients with good credit records: Santander's 0 per cent balance transfers runs for 15 months, while two others offer 0 per cent for 13 months - Halifax Mastercard and BT Visa Credit Card.

Daniella Lipszyc, solicitor and director at Ultimate Law, which advises card-holders in trouble, fears that some consumers face 50 years of suffocating debt.

"Introductory offers, such as 0 per cent balance transfers and 0 per cent APR for the first few months, get consumers signed up,"

"Many don't realise that once the initial period of the agreement ends, rates can rocket and interest payments can get out of hand.

"It takes almost 50 years to clear a debt of £5,000 by making the minimum repayment each month, on a typical APR of 16.9 per cent. Over that time, you'll pay a staggering £10,773.93 in interest.

signed and properly executed agreements were completed for many new cards. Some lenders see this will cause problems if cases go to court and are hiring debt collectors to pressurise clients at home and at work.

"One of my clients has card debts of more

than £150,000, but £10,000 is enough to get many into trouble," she says.

Card providers, for their part, are also under pressure: they have lost rich pickings from the sale of Payment Protection Insurance with cards due to new regulations, and have seen penalty charges, which they levy on late payers, cut by Government

Spending power

But they can always raise rates. Lipszyc believes card providers have "terrific freedoms" despite the new controls.

"My husband had an AMEX card charging 19.6 per cent which jumped to 26 per cent – a 33 per cent rise – a few days after Bank base rate hit 0.5 per cent," she says.

As problems deepen, Lipszyc thinks providers may accept deals – perhaps accepting a portion of a £10,000 debt – to tidy the

But the providers' decision to raise the spending limit for many

customers in recent months without being asked to do so - could backfire badly. Price-comparison service uSwitch.com reckons 5.7 million people received to their credit-card limit in the **CARD CHAOS: Outstanding**

card debt tops £64 billion

last year without being told about it, giving an average £1,538 per person for an extra £8.8bn of spending power.

"In the current climate, you could be fooled into thinking that increasing spending limits is a good thing as it stops people going over the limit and incurring extra charges," says uSwitch's Louise Bond.

"However, the issue is far more complicated. Providers are taking away consumer choice by throwing extra credit at people without their consent.

"Unless you regularly pay off your credit card bill in full, keeping high levels of debt on interest-bearing credit cards isn't advisable. It's an expensive form of borrowing.

Peter Harrison, credit-card specialist at Moneysupermarket.com, says consumers must be aware of different rates charged on balance transfers and new purchases. A tempting 0 per cent on balance transfers might run for 12 months, while new purchases incur interest charges after three

Both Nationwide and SAGA cards, he says, offer a 'positive hierarchy' of repayment money paid back each month cuts debt attracting the highest rate of interest.

"The fact is that many people who can't repay debts intend to keep paying the minimum monthly sum required – usually one per cent to five per cent of outstanding balance in the hope something turns up," he says

"It isn't really the best way forward. If you don't begin to start paying debts off, lenders may be entitled to increase rates because of higher risk."

If you fear your card debts are out of control, the experts urge you to seek help - either from the card provider, or a debt advisor.

"The advantage of admitting problems is that the card provider is less likely to increase rates while the customer tries to sort things out," says Harrison.
"Those who bury their head in the sand to

avoid the problem could be most at risk of losing their homes in the months ahead.'

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering a Peers Hardy leather
- Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £,2000
- Wells Clinic, a beauty treatment shop in Ashford, is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening, lines and wrinkle reduction treatment (b/tox)
- Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory pub
- JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care, petrol or diesel £109.
- Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs
- KOS is offering Traditional Barbeque Grill and Oven 'Smoker Bags' for £14.99
- KOS is offering a saving of £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine for only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £35 MOT

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Essential guide to where you can save

- Experience the luxury of a traditional feather mattress with mattress topper at only £39.99. Various sizes available, thanks to KOS offer
- Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering a free bucket of range balls
- Homewood Orchard in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all water features
- Belmont Hypnotherapy in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off a hypnotherapy course
- Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay, is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors
- KOS is offering a Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care petrol or diesel, £139
- Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used
- KOS is offering an all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together, from only £39.99. Save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off a used vehicle when you present this voucher
- Old Sawmills in Ashford is offering a £995 mahogany computer desk £495
- KOS is offering the Extreme Bra for £24.99
- KOS is offering the Zero Gravity recliner chair from £124.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Keeping your PPI

If you think you have been mis-sold a policy, you can claim compensation. Find out how...

THERE has been much confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, and the fact is that everyone needs to educate themselves on what it is and whether you need it, to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to.

If you think your policy has been mis-sold then there are steps you can take to ensure you get the compensation you deserve.

Here *Martyn Paddon*, senior practice manager at Bromley-based MTA Solicitors, dispels some of the myths about PPI.

WHAT IS PPI?

There are around 20 million PPI policies in the UK, generating over £5 billion a year for the companies involved. The policies cover repayments in the event that you are made redundant or unable to work due to illness or injury.

In many cases the policies are automatically added to a loan agreement regardless of whether the policy holder has requested one, and can increase the amount repayable by thousands of pounds over the life of the loan.

Consumers are often unaware of this taking place and many people fall outside of the bracket for which the policy applies. For exam-

ple if you are retired, self-employed or not reliant on an income, you may not need or benefit from PPI as for a large part these policies cover you if you are employed and lose your job through redundancy.

When you take out a loan there are strict laws dictating how the loan is sold to you, which are there to protect you from unfair practices. The selling of PPI policies is regulated and falls within the Consumer Credit Act, which can be complex, so it is the lender who has to ensure that policies are sold correctly.

If the correct process has not been adhered to the PPI policy could be mis-sold and you may be entitled to a refund of the policy, plus interest. Also many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it.

The financial regulator has been fining PPI companies for "not treating customers fairly", plus the Competition Commission has investigated the market and has placed a number of demands on lenders to curb these unscrupulous practices. But this comes as little relief to those consumers who have already been missold PPI.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR POLICY HAS BEEN MIS-SOLD

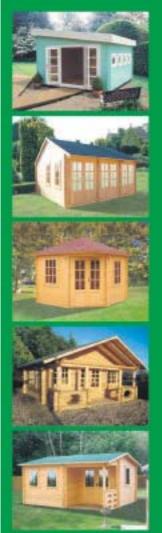
There are hundreds of thousands of potential mis-sold policies out there and it is possi-

ble to seek compensation on mis-sold PPI going back six years. So what are the options if you think you may have been a victim of mis-selling?

The biggest hurdle is knowing whether you've been mis-sold PPI in the first place. You may have taken out loans in the past and have no knowledge of whether the lender has even sold you PPI, as they may have wrapped this into the re-payment figure without you even realising. Often this can be ascertained by examining your loan documents carefully.

Many people embark on their own battle to try and recoup the money they have already paid on mis-sold insurance but lenders can drag their heels, only paying out the minimum (with no interest), or simply refusing to pay out at all. People then give up, thinking this is the maximum to be repaid, or that there isn't a case to be won. However getting some professional legal support at this stage would increase the likelihood that they would receive a lot more.

Choosing the services of claims management companies, who now offer PPI reclaiming services, needs to be thoroughly investigated before proceeding. Many of these companies have simply jumped on the bandwagon without the expertise and it's probably best to tread cautiously. Some charge an upfront fee which should not be necessary.





on the facts



UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES: many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it

Seeking legal advice may be a more viable option, as most solicitors will charge on a 'no win no fee' basis.

By seeking professional legal advice, you stand a better chance of proving to the lender that the PPI policy has been mis-sold and obtaining proper compensation.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT POLICY FOR

YOU

Consumers do need to understand this type of Payment Protection Insurance,

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• Large amount of remnants: Carpets, Vinyls from £5.00

ensure they need it and take on the responsibility to shop around. You need to take out insurance that's suitable for you and ensure the lender is giving you options.

You should be very wary if the insurance policy is tied-in to you receiving a loan.

Despite all the negativity around PPI, it is a very valid insurance if sold correctly, and should you need to make a claim, can mean the difference between losing everything and retaining your lifestyle.

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Essential guide to where you can save

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- Lexterten in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off upholstery orders over £1,500
- Village Hotelin Maidstone is offering a jug of sangria, Carling or Worthington for only £8.95 when you visit the Victory pub
- KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, a saving of £20 on the RRP
- EC Bates motorbikes shop in Dartford is offering zero per cent finance on selected Yamaha and Suzuki bikes
- KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p saving, £40 off RRP
- The Orchard restaurant in Maidstone is offering Meal Deals Monday-Saturday 7.30-9pm. Select from the menu a main meal and alcoholic or soft drink for £4.95
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a complimentary strawberry shortcake stack when you buy two courses in the Verve Grill
- KOS is offering Egypitian cotton 400count percale bed linen. Save 40 per cent off RRP
- KOS is offering solar powered bird bath, save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP £149.99
- Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering £2 off all scrubs

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Money fraud figures double in South East

By **ALEX HOAD**

BIG-MONEY fraud is at its highest level in decades and has almost doubled in a year in the South East.

The news comes from research by global financial powerhouse KPMG Forensic, which also revealed more than half the fraud in the UK by value takes place in the region.

UK by value takes place in the region.

More than 160 cases of serious fraud with charges of over £100,000 came before the courts in the first half of the year – the highest number in any six-month period since KMPG launched its fraud barometer 21 years ago.

The South East remains the UK's fraud hotspot, with 63 serious frauds taking place in the first six months of the year – up from 38 in the same period in 2008.

The value of the frauds was more than £350m – more than half of the UK's overall total.

Among the Kent cases were an Ightham man who claimed he was a land developer earning £90,000 a year to obtain two false mortgages worth £346,000.

A Swanley mechanic was implicated in a £38m stolen car ring, while two employees of a Kent insurer lodged bogus claims to defraud their employer of £462,000.

Investors were the biggest victims, losing £320m – mainly to professional gangs, which accounted for £450m of fraud nationwide.

Company managers were also responsible for defrauding their employers of £150m in 32 cases throughout the UK



DODGY DEALS: Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in bogus cooked-up investment schemes

Over a quarter of cases, worth £111m, were committed against financial institutions.

Commenting on the figures, Hitesh Patel, partner at KPMG Forensic, said: "These figures are bad, but the worst is yet to come.

"It will be a number of years before the impact of the recession fully feeds through into the fraud statistics.

"Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in cooked-up investment schemes.

"Companies too remain vulnerable to the threat within – their staff – as evidenced by the £150m of fraud that managers have been tried for in the last six months alone."



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- KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP
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Getting Medway back in business

New council schemes will help economic growth

WHILE the recession continues to bite across the country, individuals and businesses in Medway will soon be offered even more help to beat it.

The local council has developed a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants.

These measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development.

The measures are also targeted at the priorities identified in the council's new draft Economic Development Strategy.

Portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth Cllr Jane Chitty said: "Combatting the recession is high on Medway Council's agenda and we are committed to doing everything we can to help business growth and job creation at a local level.

"Medway has built a very strong business sector, ranging from engineering and manufacturing to service industries and it is imperative that we build on this very sound foundation.

BY **ALEX HOAD**

"These 10 counter-recessionary measures show our commitment as a council to support local residents and businesses."

The 10 measures are:

Micro-enterprise graduate work placement scheme: It is important that students see Medway as a place to utilise their qualifications and skills.

This scheme will provide micro-businesses in Medway with access to talented local graduates – allowing graduates to gain valuable work experience and providing businesses with valuable skills. This scheme will start in the autumn.

• Business start-up grants programme: These will be grants available up to a maximum of £1,000, which will help budding entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses. Further information on this scheme will be available shortly and the scheme will begin in September.

• Partners for Growth (PfG) interest-free loan scheme: Previously, businesses wanting

to apply for the scheme had to have a bank loan in place before they were eligible. However, many small and medium-sized companies in Medway have found it difficult getting extra finance from banks due to the current recession. In answer to this, Medway Council has relaxed the criteria of the scheme and companies no longer need to have a bank loan to apply.

- Medway Retail Conference and launch of Retail Champions scheme: On October 1, the Medway Retail Conference will mark the launch of the Retail Champions' scheme, which takes place at the St George's Centre in Chatham Maritime. It aims to support Medway's retail businesses by advising about local workforce training and business support programmes, covering aspects such as customer service skills, effective business development and marketing.
- Employ Medway: Starting in August, Employ Medway will focus on those people who are recently unemployed or have been made redundant. Employ Medway advisors will work with clients to enable them to review their options, look at addressing their training



cer. This role will also include implementing

initiatives that will encourage networking

between creative businesses as well as busi-

ness partnerships with other complementary sectors, such as manufacturing. Medway

Council hopes to recruit for this position in

• Medway apprenticeships scheme in partnership with local training

providers: The development of a new local

apprenticeship scheme to provide valuable

work experience to young people aged from 16 to 24. Opportunities will include apprenticeships within the council as well as with

private sector contractors to the council. This scheme will start in October.

For more information email the business

support team at business.support@med-

the autumn.

and skills needs and further provide support in seeking alternative local employment. A dedicated advice centre will open next month

in Chatham High Street.
• Managed workspace: Medway Council has more than 100 business units at affordable rents across three sites, including the newly opened Innovation Centre which provides high quality business space tailored for innovative, ambitious and dynamic businesses. All tenants receive personalised business advice and support at all of the council's managed workspace sites. The council has vacant premises ready and available to businesses with aspirations for growth.

• Transmanche Enterprise Network: An advice service to assist businesses to find new markets on the other side of the

Channel. • Eco-Advantage Scheme: A training and







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Retailing in the recession

David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working at the Maidstone office of Christie + Co, shares his thoughts on the corporate retail property sector in the South East

BUSINESSES in the retail sector, be it convenience store, off-licence, forecourt or newsagent, are certainly not immune to the global financial crisis we currently find ourselves dealing with, but are proving less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the retail market.

Although average property values in the retail sector fell across the UK in 2008, they did so at a much more modest rate than those reported in other business property sectors, for example what pubs and hotels witnessed.

This trend has been maintained across the

This trend has been maintained across the South East retail market over the last six months, demonstrating the sector's resilience and showing that levels of confidence remain high amongst established operators and first-time buyers.

Many business owners we talk to indicate that turnovers have remained steady, although there has been some pressure on margins, while some have witnessed an increase in turnover. Despite all the economic pressures, it should be remembered that convenience stores, etc, generally provide staple products which consumers buy on a regular basis.

The fact that transactional levels have remained fairly stable also shows that independent operators clearly continue to believe in their ability to build successful local retail businesses.

We are also seeing that buyers with commercial or residential portfolios are taking a long-term view of their assets in the hope they rebuild their value—they are also looking for cash-generating businesses. These predominantly cash-rich buyers, who have been sitting on the sidelines for the last eight months, have steadily come back into the market looking for opportunities where they can add value.

opportunities where they can add value.

With banks becoming increasingly stringent regarding their lending criteria, established local operators are also taking advantage of a reduction in competition from national operators and declines in values, to enhance their estates. The banks are seemingly more willing to back those with existing successful operations.

An operator's ability to make his store a vital part of the local community has never been more important. The economic slowdown has provided switched-on retailers, across all our sectors, with opportunities to develop their operations. Well-run businesses, which provide a valuable offer to their local communities — including good product availability and a speedy service with a personal touch — can



RETAIL NEGOTIATOR: David Garrrard

still generate sales, especially as consumers cut down on luxury items and concentrate on necessities.

The first half of the year has continued to highlight the fact that people's appetite for this ever-changing market remains strong. Despite the doom and gloom being propagated by national media regarding the commercial property market at present, there are still plenty of people looking to buy both free-hold and leasehold opportunities in the retail sector.

The last six months has also highlighted that it is imperative for businesses and would-be buyers to seek professional, up-to-the-minute advice, whether you are selling or valuing a property.



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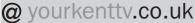
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Photograpger David Watkins and Gebrielle Gothe on their new business that's thriving despite the crunch

Essential guide to where you can save

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- Oliver Carpets is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250
- Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels
- KOS is offering Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant £29.99
- Colgate Doors in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off selected garage doors
- Avinco in Ramsgate is offering free consultation

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By JEREMY GATES

WHEN full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash.

Strictly speaking, the claim isn't true. Gold is down about 18 per cent on the £700 level seen in February, while the dollar price is down from 1,006 to 955 in the same period. But this is unlikely to deter sellers who need cash.

Earlier this year, gold achieved its highestever price against sterling, the euro, the Swiss franc and the dollar in Canada, Australia and New Zealand - indeed just about everywhere except for the Japanese yen and the US dollar.

After years of steely jewellers looking dismissively at a well-worn keepsake and advising desperate owners not to waste their time, the internet is creating a world where it is much easier to turn surplus items into cash.

With British Government debt soaring towards a trillion pounds, Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, the UK's leading online service for gold bullion investment, reckons the craze for turning valuable metals into cash may be only just beginning.

"When Cash4Gold, a big American company, gets going in Britain, you could see quite an impact on this business," he says

"These boys are big enough to take a twominute advertisement in the Superbowl. A significant amount of the booming level of scrapgold supply may be down to the model they've established.

"Theirs is an impressive business model: heavy advertising, an efficient collection/distribution network and a cheque rapidly dispatched for vendors.'

Website CashYourgoldNow.co.uk, which promises a "fast, efficient and very discreet'

Get ready for the gold rush

service, is likely to feel the draught as the Americans arrive.

Its selling angle is that any unwanted old ewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion.

The argument is a timely one because gold has been a relatively steady store of value through 18 months of financial turmoil which has wiped nearly £9 trillion off global share values. Most other investments, apart from US Treasury bonds, have headed south.

Jewellerv

Ash says the "scrap side" of gold sales boomed globally in the first quarter of 2009, with a total value of 500-1,000 metric tonnes sold by owners seeking cash.

If private sales continued at levels seen earlier this year, the scrap side could soon generate more gold than the 2,500 tonnes annually produced by commercial mines.

"Heavy selling by private owners in Asia and the Far East is normal and what you would

expect," Ash says.
"There is no banking network in rural India, so farmers turn profits into gold, not rupees, and then sell heavy 'investment jewellery' for cash in the planting season.

"What's new is the volume of old jewellery coming out of Western households. It is being sold off in greater volumes than at any time since the recession of 1979-81."

However, Ash thinks second-quarter sales

might actually fall: gold prices tend to drift in summer, and sales have attracted less media coverage lately.

It is also possible, he thinks, that households have dumped items they thought about selling for years. Websites offer easier access to buyers, and a cleaner sale.

But are people selling too cheaply? Krista Waddell at Ounces to Pounds, which organises 'Gold Parties', claims her 'tupper-ware-style' events in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Scotland pay out £50,000 per week.

"Cash4Gold is short-changing Britain," she claims. "Its margin is chewed away on TV advertising and profit, and not put in the pockets of British consumers.

"With our parties, people see what they are getting, without delay. They get a good price there and then for unwanted gold, platinum and silver. No waiting, no hassle

Waddell says her customers, mainly 45-plus and mostly women, are not turning valuables into cash to pay the rent.

They have stuff sitting around and no other sales outlet, and they won't use pawnbrokers,'

"Often, they bought items in the 1980s when gold was a third of the price it is today. If they sell today at 50 per cent of value, they still make money. It's a fun evening, and it's an unusual sale which puts cash in your pocket!"

But even these sellers may regret their









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lenders who accept your valuables as security for a loan and return them when the loan is

Paul Aitken at leading online asset lender Borro.com says he has been following this market closely since it began in the United

States 18 months ago.
"Too many people accept offers of 20-30 pence in the pound. Those who see jewellery as a way of getting money should consider all other options first.

"We can usually lend more money than they will get from a sale. They can come back, perhaps within two months, and have their goods back after we deduct interest.

"In close to 90 per cent of cases we take on, the customer gets back whatever item they have pledged. But this is a solution to shortterm money problems, not long-term ones."

Aitken says that when such artifacts are melted down for their precious metals, any intrinsic value, both in workmanship and sentiment, is destroyed.

"If you need money in a hurry, don't sell under distress at a gold party because you are

Aitken says 'asset lending' is much easier since the internet reduced the need to find a pawnbroker: just go online, find out what an item is worth, send it off in a secure envelope

and the cash is ready in 24 hours.

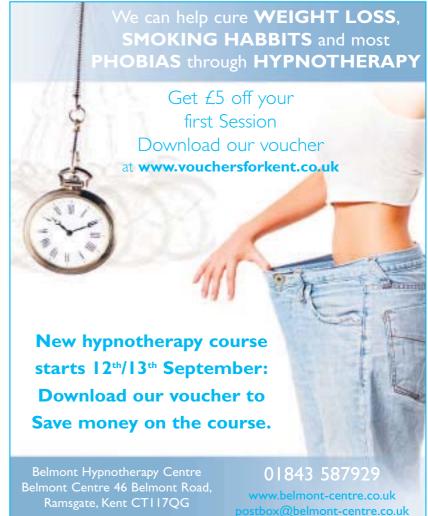
However, Borro charges four per cent a month on a loan of £1,000. Over six months, a £1,000 loan costs £300 interest.

Of course, any owner of valuable goods should think carefully before they sell.

Mark Gettinby, director of Intune, the financial services arm of Help The Aged, says it is important to be aware of security as you

will be dealing with people you don't know.
"If selling goods online, never give out bank details and make sure you wait for any cheques to clear before parting with the goods," he advises.

"If people come to your house to pick up items, arrange a time when you are not alone. And if you're not selling goods through an auction marketplace, it's always worth getting a second opinion on the price offered to verify you're getting the best possible





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Yourkentty presenter Julie Maddocks discovers how changing her driving habits could save her money

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Save by buying a car

BY **STEVE LOADER**

BUY a car in a recession?

It sounds mad, but there might never be a better time for some of us.

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge on a new car thanks to big discounts at the moment

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme (see later story), but dealers have been knocking cash off cars for months - whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade or not.

There are other deals that can be factored in too, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any addons you fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying an unpopular engine or trim combination or, worse, a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago.

After all, you don't want to trade your old gas guzzler for another just as thirsty or likely to depreciate badly.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars always devalue unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for ditching something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model

On the other hand, review your partexchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out the running costs for the next three years - they might be much less



than the cost of replacing it.

Road tax also favours downsizing - gas guz-

zling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax

from next year - but this is still a small part of

NO SERVE

(above) and the versatile Nissan Qashqai (left) are two models to tempt you if you decide to raid those savings accounts

the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard ver-

The eco supermini might save £105 road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more and you might not think the driving experience is worth paying extra for either

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; the fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on their heavier diesel equivalents.

REASONS TO BE CHEERFT 71

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BY **STEVE LOADER**

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear – a moped or motorcycle might be a better option.

If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route a sat nav can help and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.
- Check tyres under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check pressures weekly.
- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal. Feather the throttle at cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.
- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.
- Reduce drag remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and

Smarter driving for better saving



SENSIBLE CHOICE: Downsizing to modern cars like the Peugeot 107 city car (right) or affordable Kia Ceed family hatch – with a seven-year warranty – can save money, but sensible driving can knock even more off your motoring bill

wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.
- Think ahead there is no point rushing

and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?
- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.
- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at:

http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.

Essential guide to where you can save

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 KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper
- from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

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Scrapheap banger is motoring ahead

AFTER a shaky start, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car.

It has been so successful that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

So, while there is some talk of a top-up donation, get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger – firm orders will be hon-oured even if the delivery of the new car is

The donor car must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappoint-

BY STEVE LOADER

ment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the

exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront out-

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.



- KOS is offering personalised Weekender Bags for £29.99
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September
- Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99
- Bailevs Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

 Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the
- Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher
- Linwood Electronicsin Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for £79.95+vat

To get these offers go to: www.vouchersforkent.co.uk TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS



SALES BOOST: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has boosted sales of newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and ultra-frugal Hyundai i10 (right)



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Pros and cons of tax savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

ROAD TAX BANDS

Band A (0-100g/km of CO2) – £0 Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35 Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120 Band F (141-150g/km) – £125 Band G (151-160g/km) – £150 Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175 Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215 Band L (226-255g/km) – £405 Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

for a more fuel-efficient

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the econ

But Labour - and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger - something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care petrol
- KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving more than 50 per cent on RRP
- Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all
- Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all its garden furniture range
- Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses
- Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range log cabins
- Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older
- Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes
- Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per
- KOS is offering Sun Blaster glare shields

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (I/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 24.6 (11.5) - 68.9 (4.3). CO2 emissions (g/km) 107 - 299.



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Soak up Brittany's Gallic charm

BY DAVE MARK

CHATEAU des Ormes offers something-for-everyone holidays.

The 250-acre parkland and forest site, about 15 miles inland from Mont-Saint-Michel, has enough activities to keep the whole family busy and out of sight without ever venturing into the rest of France.

It's visually rather impressive. Spreading outwards from a sublime, centuries-old château, the landscaped forests and parks somehow manage to retain a remote, rural, almost pastoral quality despite being close enough together to preserve a sense of community and neighbourliness.

In this self-contained, almost exclusively English little world, you have everything from paintballing to pony trekking, pedalos to pitchand-putt. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools have slides, waterfalls, lazy-rivers and all you could ask for, except maybe a place to swim.

While some activities are free, plenty are not. And the ones that aren't are the ones your

nippers will want to try.

The aerial circuit of zip wires and wire walks, for example, looked terrific fun, but at around £15 a head, it had to be. The reps were rather good, however, and not too many people laughed when a pensioner from South Yorkshire clattered into a tree.

For our late August stay, the weather was nothing special. When it rained, it really rained, and drying damp clothes in a mobile home isn't easy, although that was our only complaint about the roomy four-person 'Villagrand' accommodation. Its two decentsized bedrooms book-ended a comfortable kitchen-cum-dining room, and the two bathrooms were a godsend.



HIGH POINT: The magnificent Mont-Saint-Michel off the coast of Normandy is a must-see on any trip to the region

Like all deluded families, we'd promised to take the self-catering thing seriously and live on a budget. But the seafood was one of the main reasons for coming to this part of the world, so we went a tad mad on mussels.

If we did want to knock up a home-cooked feast, an on-site shop had all we needed, though the area had a wasp problem at the time of our visit and the bakery buzzed with unwelcome visitors.

As ever with Brits abroad, the campsite truly came alive at night. But the bars weren't too rowdy or too expensive, and were nicely packed with families playing cards, watching sport on the big screen or knocking back a drink or two until the disco opened and the teenagers could go off to enjoy themselves without much supervision.

The jewel in the area's crown was, for us, the gorgeous little town of Dinan – a little-known medieval citadel with 13th-century ramparts and 15th-century half-timbered houses. My four-year old, Elora, called it "the olden days"

and she wasn't far wrong.

But for retail therapy, the market at Dinard takes some beating. Whether it be textiles,

seafood or just enough clothes to start a shop, stalls stretch as far as the eye can see. It's ringed by endless coffee shops and bars, where the waiters have no objection to you ordering a sit-down coffee while you pull a baguette from your shopping bag and have a munch.

For seafood, the harbour town of Cancale can't be beaten.

The platter at one of the many blue-andwhite-painted seafront restaurants where we ate was extraordinarily fresh, with local oysters big enough to be eaten with knife and

For wow-factor, the best came last: Mont-Saint-Michel is surely one of the great wonders of the world.

Like a snowglobe without the glass, this exquisite church sits atop a rocky island approximately one kilometre off the coast of Normandy. Accessible by foot only during a gap in the tides, this extraordinary commune of narrow streets with tiny shops and restaurants feels like a filmset.

All in all, we spent more than we planned, ate more than we anticipated, and had much more fun than we expected.

FACT FILE: BRITTANY

Time difference + One hour (GMT) Regional capital Nantes Language French, Breton, Gallo **Population** Approx 4.4 million Currency £1 = about 1.16 euros Religion Catholic Climate Temperate

Travel details

Dave Mark was a guest of Keycamp, which offers seven nights' self-catering at May half-term 2010 in a Supernova mobile home for two adults and up to four children at Château des Ormes in Dol-de-Bretagne, from £383 including Dover-Calais ferry crossings, if booked by September 30.

Limited availability remains this year in August and September in a mobile home from £472 per week. Five-night tent stays in September start at

Keycamp reservations: 0844 406 0319 and www.keycamp.co.uk.



BIG SPLASH: A pool at Château des Ormes

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YOUR TV REVIEW

BY TOM BETTS



THERE are a lot of shows that have emulated the well-worn formula of Have I Got News For You.

You know the drill, three reasonably smart, funny people rib all and sundry for half an hour of easy watching.

Nevermind the Buzzcocks has ploughed the same furrow and there have been others such as Mock the Week and Channel 4's Jimmy Carr-fronted Eight Out of Ten Cats.

Both are decent enough shows, but occasionally veer into who can shout the loudest territory, which can get irritating.

Better than both those shows is Would I Lie to You?, which has returned for a new run.

Influenced as much by Call My Bluff as HIGNFY, this is smarter and less shouty than its two main rivals.

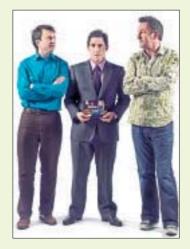
The panellists tell tall stories about their own lives with a few bona fide truths thrown in for good measure.

The opposing team must guess what is true and what is a load of old flannel and new host Rob Brydon, who has taken over from Angus Deayton, chips in with enough funnies of his own.

But it is David Mitchell who is the star of the show, as he is on most things he appears on.

His skew on the world, showcased to excellent effect in Peep Show, has something of Old Englishness about it that is very charming, very funny and very familiar to those of us who also feel exasperated and bewildered by the modern world.

LAST week's BBC Two documentary



GAME'S UP: Rob Brydon (centre) hosts Would I Lie to You? with Mitchell (left) and Lee Mack

The Trouble With Girls was probably the best documentary I've seen in years

Charting the lives of three young Rochdale lasses struggling to make their way in life it was moving in parts and frustrating in others.

There were parts where you really started to feel sorry for the girls, who often seemed trapped by their own

Two of them had their hearts set on military service, but were rejected by the Army because they suffered with cirrhosis

However, for every thing that made you feel sorry for the girls, you could feel sympathy ebbing away when they announced they were pregnant yet again, after failing to use any contraception, only adding to their financial and housing woes.

This was quite hard to watch at times, but a real insight into the lives and the fate of so many of young people in this country today, nonetheless.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19) YOU'LL have to fill out a lot of paperwork if you're going to get a loan or refund. It's a bore, but that's the hurdle you have to jump. You might as well get it out of the way as soon as possible. A misunderstanding between you and an authority figure makes life confusing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Aquarius 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21) IT'S important to take your artistic talent seriously. There's a lot more to you than making money. If you'd like to do something glamorous for a living the possibility is there. Granted, you'll have to take a pay cut, but that's better than being miserable all of the time.

 To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Taurus 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23) CREATING a budget is essential to your financial health. You need to be more careful about how you spend your money. Take things slowly with somebody who has just caught your interest. Don't go public with until you're sure about your feelings for each other.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Leo 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22) JOINING a professional organisation could boost your job prospects. When it comes to work, who you know is just as important as what you know. Your boss could hand you an unpleasant task. Don't waste any time complaining; just get it over and done with as quickly as possible. • To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on Scorpio 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20) IF you want to launch a business, team up with someone who has had lots of experience in this field. They have lots of great advice and plenty of potential packed tips for running a profitable venture. Don't tell colleagues about your plans or they'll start to resent you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Pisces 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22) IT'S time for a serious talk with a relative. They need to hear an honest opinion. You could be vulnerable to a powerful personality who seems to have all the answers. Actually, their motives are pretty suspect. Under no circumstances should

you give them money.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Gemini 09067-531754



figure is on the wrong track, speak now or forever hold your peace. Take care of your emotional health. Surrounding yourself with positive people will prevent depression from setting in.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Virgo 09067-531757



views and suggestions. Nobody is perfect; there is always room for improvement. If you're going on a job interview, do some preparation. Research the company in question. This will show you are someone who does their homework.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Sanittarius 09067-531760

ANXIETY over work could be getting you down. You need to find a creative and relaxing outlet. Taking a short trip to see a friend will also be a lot of fun. Trust your instincts when it comes to a female relative. This woman could use a little ten-

der loving care and nurturing. • To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Aries 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23) YOU may have to add to your qualifications to boost your professional prospects. This won't be an easy ride; your bosses and instructors will be very exacting. As far as love is concerned you're a little worried. The object of your affection is so desirable that it's hard to fight off rivals.

 To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Cancer 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct23) KEEP your fears to yourself. If you need an outlet

for pent up anxieties write them in a diary. Right now, you can't afford to let people see you sweat. A friend who is head over heels in love may keep breaking appointments. You've got to make them accountable for their behaviour.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Libra 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20) DEEP philosophical matters are weighing on your heart. You're tired of money being

the driving force in your life. If you're deep in debt, find out how much you owe and figure out a plan for paying your bills. It may take a while, but at least you'll be working to change things for the better.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Capricorn 09067-531761

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 US canteens potentially providing nourishment (10)
- 6 In the bag Edam had matured (4)
- 9 A detective accepting last letter from old Mexican (5)
- **10** Trip from square belonging to us (4)
- 11 Jane produced a girl (4)
- 13 Itchy meaty snack? (4,11)
- 14 Lifted forest timber (8)
- 16 Before youth leader found abbey (6)
- 18 End that is for footballer (6)
- 19 Be about to have the Spanish cooked meat included with
- 22 Old scoundrel running sporting events (9,6)
- 24 Eccentric left with nothing on (4)
- 25 Part of eye, part mauve always (4)
- 26 Doctor behind with payment (5)
- 27 Idolise Dorothy having energy (4)
- 28 Suspect work on bend in disrepair (6-4)

- 1 Person photographing fish (7)
- 2 Arty's struggling with woodland deity (5)
- **3** Too much of a load to bear (6.6)
- 4 In front turning into rear (8)
- 5 Surly sort of curtsy (6)
- 7 Colourful place for actors offstage? (9)
- 8 Powerhouse? (7)
- 12 Pipe officer (12)
- 15 Placed wider apart while in a dazed state (6,3)
- 17 Pass football to defender and get this response? (8)
- 18 Looked with amazement at remarkable gold egg (7)
- **20** Illuminate length I removed (7)
- 21 Case of the shakes (6)
- 23 I am past the mature stage (5)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

2 4 7

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No100

1 5 6

6 7 9 4

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 SE African country (10)
- 6 Bug (4) 9 Feelings experienced (5) **10** Chrysalis (4)
- 11 Go round and round (4)
- 13 Culpability (15)
- 14 Raised in relief (8) 16 Harsh (6)
- 18 New (6)
- 19 Mournful (8)
- 22 Building materials (6-3-6)
- **24** Farewell (2-2)
- 25 Rouse (4)
- 26 Tight (5)
- 27 Social class (4) 28 Dutifully (10)

DOWN

- 1 Mobile (7)
- 2 Striped mammal (5)
- 3 Skilful act (12) 4 Indecent (8)
- 5 Arrogant (6)
- 7 Meaningless exclamation (9)
- 8 Fixed attitude (7)
- 12 Drink excessively (3,3,6)
- 15 Racket sport (9)
- 17 Shook (8)
- **18** Gangster (7)
- 20 Robbery (7) 21 Of Cambridge (6)
- 23 Tinge (5)

5 9 6

7 9 3

1 4 3

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No100

gooseberry 10 Spotlight 11 Style 12 Deft 13 Toboggan 17 Keypunch 18 Moon 22 Cajun 24 Transient 25 Unpremeditated 26 Dampener 27 Empty. **DOWN:** 1 Exposed 2 Dragonfly 3 Wiggle 4 Plough 5 Question 6 Aversion 7 Curry 9 Mean 14 Goose-step 15 Runner-up 16 Scotsman 17 Kick 19 Notedly 20 Zander 21 Tsetse 23 Junta.

OUICK SOLUTION No101

deco 20 Curled 21 Pencil 23 Error. Economic 16 Demanded 17 Sigh 19 Art External 7 Tulip 9 Hymn 14 Statement 15 Interlude 3 Gallon 4 Cabbie 5 Selfless 6 Preceded 27 Lotto. DOWN: 1 Belisha 2 Amusement 25 Créme de la créme 26 Assassin 17 Sketched 18 Gala 22 Green 24 ACROSS: 1 Bring 4 Cassette 8 Little by little 10 Sartorial 11 Repay 12 Arum 13

ACROSS: 1 Endow 4 Piquancy 8 Play





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Answers to all of this week's guizzes can be found on our website

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7 3 6 1 8 5

2 7 6 1 9 5

5 3 4 6 1

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PROPERTY NEWS

Homeowners expect market recovery

CONSUMER confidence was nudged up marginally in July by expectations of recovery in the housing market and an end to the recession, Nationwide said.

end to the recession, Nationwide said.

Nationwide's Consumer Confidence
Index rose to 60 in July, up from a
revised 59 in June.

Spending confidence fell for the first time in a year, but British homeowners believe the value of their property will rise in the next six months.

Martin Gahbauer, Nationwide's chief economist, said consumers are cautious, but are not panicked by the recession.

but are not panicked by the recession.

"Consumers might have been reassured by reports that the housing market may be starting to recover, and manufacturing output is no longer falling as rapidly as it was a few months ago," Gahbauer said.

Around one in five of those polled expect the economy to worsen in the next six months, compared to 53 per cent at the start of 2009.

In a separate report, the British Retail Consortium revealed a slowdown in shop-price inflation, helping consumer purchasing power.

Commercial sector sees rise in fortune

THE value of commercial property has risen for the first time since June 2007, according to property agents CB Richard Ellis.

The value of offices, retail space and warehouses has fallen by around 45 per cent since the onset of the credit crisis in 2007. The sector's demise has played a major role in the woes being endured by Britain's biggest banks.

But analysts say the 0.2 per cent rise recorded for July by the company is further evidence that the economy may be turning a corner.

A number of property companies and funds are now raising millions of pounds to target properties whose values have fallen sharply and this demand for assets has driven the rise in pricing.

David Wylie, head of economics and forecasting at the company, said: "This month's index results reveal the undoubted sea change in investor sentiment that has taken place.

"Although concerns remain over the near-term prospects for secondary assets with weaker covenants, the figures seem to confirm that investors have awoken to what is now widely being seen as a oncein-a-generation buying opportunity."



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Hot campaign to make Brits more house-proud

BY NICK AMES

ONE in five people are too embarrassed at the state of their home to admit visitors, according to a recent survey.

And worries over interior design are affecting a large number of people who have little confidence in their ability to make the best of their rooms.

Appliance brand, Hotpoint, has conducted national research into how people feel about their homes.

In the current economic climate, with people "improving, not moving", the company says it has got to the bottom of how homeowners really view their interior-design skills.

As a result, Hotpoint has launched a campaign with interior designer Kelly Hoppen to help Brits inject a bit of style into their homes.

According to the research, the way we use the rooms in our home is starting to change as our busy lifestyles evolve.

A spokesman for the study said: "The kitchen has now overtaken the dining room as the hub of family life. In fact, we now spend more than three times as many hours in there than any other room in the house other than the lounge – highlighting just how important the space is becoming to modern family life.

"One in 20 of us has even moved house to get our hands on a bigger kitchen."

Hotpoint's research has found that:

- 14 per cent of people have yet to feel a sense of home ownership about where they live
- 37 per cent of people questioned lack confidence when it comes to interior design
- 38 per cent of people like their home but don't feel it's stylish enough
- 26 per cent of people say that the economic climate has prevented them from



ANOTHER FINE MESS: Brits lack confidence in their interior-design abilities and are embarrassed about their homes

making the improvements their home needs, with over 16 per cent not moving house because of the downturn

Launching the Hotpoint Hot Style campaign, Kelly Hoppen said: "My kitchen is the heart of my home – my dining room is virtually redundant now as I entertain all my friends and family in my kitchen.

"I want to show that creating a lovely, stylish kitchen needn't be daunting or expensive. That's why I've teamed up with Hotpoint to help create some Hot Style in kitchens throughout the UK."

Lisa Curran, Hotpoint's communications manager, said: "Hotpoint has launched this campaign with Kelly Hoppen as we think it's really important that people feel proud about their homes.

"Kelly's tips show that interior design needn't be intimidating and can be done to suit all budgets. The findings from our research are really reflective of how family life is evolving; the fact that the dining room is being used less and less and that the kitchen is turning into more of a family room, highlights a move away from formality for us Brits."

Conti-rental trend reaches 18-30s

EIGHTEEN to 30 year olds are more likely to rent than their parents, according to new research by the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

A survey of more than 1,800 people revealed that 31 per cent of 18 to 30 year olds had rented three or four properties, while only 17.5 per cent of their older counterparts had rented a similar number at the same age.

A third of 18 to 30s who currently live in rented accommodation said they enjoy independence from property ties. A further 31.6 per cent enjoyed the flexibility to move around. However, only eight per cent thought it wasn't

important to eventually own a property.

There were more men who had never paid rent for a property – 32.3 per cent had opted to stay in the family home – while 75 per cent of females were making their own way in the world and had either bought or were in rented accommodation.

Young females were keener to get on the property ladder with 45.2 per cent having bought before they turned 25, while only 32 per cent of men could claim the same. 21 per cent of 18 to 30s stated that they wanted to continue renting for the foreseeable future.

Ian Potter, operations manager of ARLA,

said: "The research reveals a generation that wants to be upwardly mobile and free from ties. Attitudes towards renting have changed in the UK and we're becoming more like our fellow Europeans, who rent rather than buy.

fellow Europeans, who rent rather than buy. "This trend of being 'conti-rental' recognises that renting should no longer be perceived as a waste of money, but simply as an alternative lifestyle choice to being tied to property for the long-term.

"Today's graduates, more than ever, are looking for work that involves travel and opportunities to move around, renting allows them to operate more freely in a flexible job market."

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Maidstone

- two bedroom ground floor apartment. Lounge/diner, kitchen bathroom. Double glazing

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Maidstone

- Spacious one bedroom apartment L-shaped lounge, new carpets.
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West Malling £295,000 Extended two bedroom semi detached home in non-estate location. Rural views to front over fields and north downs. Central heating. Double glazing. 100' cottage garden to rear

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01622 759891 Maidstone Office



Maidstone

A first floor one bedroom retirement apartment located in Maidstone town centre. There is a communal lounge warden, communal gardens and parking. An internal viewing is recommended.

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Maidstone

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £150,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Maidstone Office



Maidstone

£185,000

A late 19th Century ragstone semi! This family home has lounge/diner, cellar, kitchen overlooking rear garden, three bedrooms, fourth bedroom/study, shower room and





West Malling

£195,000

Offered for sale with no forward chain is this three bedroom semi-detached house. Other benefits include gas central heating, double glazing and driveway parking.



Boughton Monchelsea £249,950

A modern detached three bedroom home with various upgrades to original specification including an enhanced kitchen with granite work surfaces, alarm system and floor coverings.

Maidstone Office



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parking, gas fired central heating and double glazing. There is a lounge/dining room and utility area. An internal

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Harrietsham

£159,950

01622 759891

Two bedroom top floor apartment. En-suite to master bedroom. 16'6 x 14'10 Lounge/Dining Room. Double glazing. No chain.



Loose

£265,000

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£170,000

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£225,00

Boasting front and rear gardens, this two bedroom bungalow benefits from a recently re-fitted kitchen.

Countrywide

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£180,000

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£225,000

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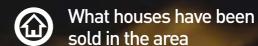
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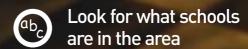
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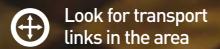


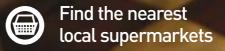
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MOTORS NEWS



Wait for sighting of the new Yeti is nearly over

SKODA launches its fifth model line on September 17, when the Yeti crossover arrives, priced from £13,750 with air-con as standard.

as standard.

With four trim levels and a 4x4 option though, you can pay as much as £22,120 for this rugged yet stylish newcomer.

Realistically though, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from

Realistically though, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from £14,250, the start point for alloys as standard to complement the neat body design. The two or four-wheel drive and DSG options also come into play.



Golf rules apply to the all new VW Polo

VOLKSWAGEN has created an all-new Polo supermini using striking design language already seen on the latest Golf and Scirocco Coupe.

and Scirocco Coupe.

Priced from £10,035 for the five-door model – the three-door arrives in December – order books are already open and deliveries start in October.

Apart from the elegant styling, the other main talking point on this 5th generation car is ESP (electronic stabilisation programme) as standard for enhanced safety and driving response.

Though bigger than last time, the car is

Though bigger than last time, the car is lighter for better economy and emissions.



Superlighting way for a future MX-5

MAZDA has unveiled a stunning Superlight MX-5 concept.

Billed as a show car to highlight lightweight technology and underline the roadster's 20-years on the market, comments and reaction will surely be taken into account for a next generation car.

It would be nice, for instance, if the Superlight's stylish headrest nacelles appear on a future version of the world's best-selling two-seat sports car.

The current MX has just had a facelift that sharpens the styling without altering curvaceous lines carried over through three generations.



MADE IN INDIA: The new Suzuki Alto lacks refinement, but is economical, spacious and is a good deal cheaper alternative for people looking to cut their motoring budget

Alto misses high notes but pricing is low key

SUZUKI'S new Indian-built Alto is a tribute to how far motor manufacturing has advanced there.

Notorious not long ago for the hideous Hindustan Ambassador — a reborn 1950s Morris Oxford – India is now a potential motor sales and production powerhouse, particularly for city cars like the Suzuki.

for city cars like the Suzuki.

With low profit margins on small motors, India's low-labour costs help sweeten the deal, but the Alto also shows where corners can be cut; the interior feels and smells plasticky and has pop-out rather than wind-down rear windows.

Secondly, the Alto lives up to its name with a high-pitched three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol engine.

OK, 'three-pots' always transmit unevenness, but the Alto's is probably the closest I've heard to the Moulinex blender used in the legendary Citroën 2CV.

Suzuki's kitchen appliance is pretty lively and more refined at motorway speeds. The easy-shifting five-speed 'box and 67bhp takes you from 0-62mph in 13.5 seconds.

The engine is emasculated by the four-speed

ROAD TEST SUZUKI ALTO

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Green rating	****

auto option though – you'll need to hoist a spinnaker and run before the wind to hit 60mph in less than 17 seconds – but £600 extra for the auto is a reasonable premium if you must have an easy-driving city runabout.

I like the car's wheel-at-each-corner design, which delivers the best cabin space possible and a ride with less fore and aft pitching.

The car is roomy for four with a reasonable boot and decent stowage – the big dashboard bin and centre console are particularly useful – and the high-mounted audio controls are just a span from the left hand on the wheel.

Suzuki has weighted the pliancy of the ride nicely against grip and handling. It was never intended to be a fireball, but the Alto can be piloted aggressively – albeit noisily – when required and the lack of cornering sag is impressive.

Running costs should be ridiculously low with a potential for averaging 60mpg and insurance groupings of 1-2, though the car misses out narrowly on escaping road tax of £35/year.

Our test car was the SZ4 flagship (£7,960), but the various extras don't do much to justify a price tag that brings impressive rivals into play.

The sub-£7,000 SZ2 might be the better bet for those keen to cut their motoring budget.



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07	57	HONE	A C	CIVIC	1-4	SE A	UTC	PAS	AIIA 6	R/C	CHA	MP.	AGN	IE 7	000	MIL	ES		£1	099
07	07	HONE)A	JAZZ	1-4	SE A	UTO	PAS	AIF	R/C E	BLA	CK '	1000	MIL	ES.				٠ ٤	999
06	56	HONE) A	CRV	SE S	POR	T 5D	R AL	JTO	PAS	S All	R/C	SIL	/ER	170	1 00	ИLE	S	£1	299
06	06	HONE) A	CRV	EXE(C 5D	RÁU	ITO F	PAS	ALL	OY	SAI	R SI	LVE	R 17	700	D MII	LES	£1	29
06	06	HONE) A	CRV	EXE(C 5D	R AU	ITO F	PAS	ALL	OY	S AI	R SI	LVE	R 23	300	D MII	LES	£1	249
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06	06	HONE)A	JAZZ	1-4	SE A	UTO	PAS	AIF	R/C /	ALL	OYS	BL	ACK	160	00	MILE	ES	٠ ٤	849
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02	52	HONE	A (CRV	SE S	POR	T 5D	R AL	JTO	PAS	S All	R/C	SIL	/ER	420	1 00	ИLE	S	٤ ٤	749

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07 07 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES	
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES£5	99
	99
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	29
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08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES	
07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES	£749
06 56 AVENSIS T3-X 1-8 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR CARLO BLUE 9000 MILES	£999
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 15000 MILES	£999
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C IXION BLUE 12000 MILES	£899!
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C INNEOS GREY 14000 MILES	£899
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 14000 MILES	£899!
06 06 YARIS 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR BLUE MET 10000 MILES	£749
06 06 YARIS 1-3 T-SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE MET 11000 MILES	£799
05 55 YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES	£769
05 55 YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 9000 MILES	£799
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08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES 08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 2000 MILES	£89
08 57 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1-2 AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 17000 MILES	£79
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES	£89
07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 6000 MILES	£94
07 07 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SPIRITA AUTO PAS RED MET JUST 1000 MILES	£74
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 22000 MILES	£64
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C RED 13000 MILES	£64
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 24000 MILES	£69
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 6000 MILES	£69
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C RED 21000 MILES	£64
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREEN 17000 MILES	£64
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 11000 MILES	£64
04 04 NISSAN PRIMERA 1-8 S AUTO PAS 5DR GOLD 49000 MILES	£49
03 03 NISSAN MICRA 1-0 S AUTO PAS 5DR RED 14000 MILES	
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08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILE 08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 500	
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03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES..... £3495

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08 08 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 4000M	£6995
08 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 5DR 13000 MILES	£5695
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES	£5295
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08	08	VW	POLO	1-4	MAT	TCH	5 DR	AUTO	PAS	AIR/C	SILVE	R 7000	MILES		£999
06	56	VW	GOLF	1-6	S 5	DR A	UTO	PAS	AIR/C	BLAC	K 1800	O MILI	ES		£999
06	06	vw	GOLF	1-6	SE 5	5 DR	AUT	O PAS	S AIR/	C GRE	Y MET	ALLIC	10000 [/IILES	£1099
06	06	vw	GOLF	1-6	S 5	DR A	UTO	PAS	AIR/C	BLUE	11000	MILES	S		£999
04	04	vw	LUPO	1-4	E 3E	DR A	UTO	PAS S	SILVE	R JUS	Γ 4000	MILES	S		£549

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08 08 ASTRA	1-8 DESIGN A	JTO PAS ES	TATE STAR SIL	VER 8000 MILES	299
				BLUE 13000 MILES.	
08 57 ASTRA	1-8 LIFE AUTO	PAS AIR/C	5 DOOR ULTRA	BLUE 4000 MILES	£79
				ACOTTA 7000 MILES.	
				R 11000 MILES	
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07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 15000 MILES £6995
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES £6495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000MILES £6995
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 14000 MILES £6495
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FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's No1 through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For secondhand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power - including the rapid ST trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupe convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

TOYOTA COROLLA



TOYOTA chopped the Corolla in 2007 in favour of the Auris, but the latter has all the same virtues and disadvantages. More than any other model, the Corolla made Toyota the world's No1 carmaker it was affordable and durable, but a little dull. There is plenty of engine and body choice though and even racy versions, though the car pretty much does what it says on the tin. Corolla prices have eased too with its perception as a 'deleted' model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

MAZDA3



MAZDA'S link with Ford means that a lot of Focus resided beneath the skin of the first and newly-replaced Mazda3 and that means neat handling. But the Mazda stands out visually from its ubiquitous half-sister, a fact not lost on used car buyers looking for something distinctive. The '3' is mostly found as a capacious hatchback, but there is also a sporty saloon. Engines are lively, in line with Mazda's sporty 'Zoom-Zoom' image - look out for the MPS hot hatch.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****



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(08) NEW SHAPE CORSA 1.4 SXI 3dr. 22.000mls, Pas, Air con, Allovs, e/w, e/m, Cd/MP3



(57) NEW SHAPE CORSA 1.3CDTI DESIGN 3dr. 15.000mls. Pas 1/2 Leather, Alloys, e/w, e/m, Cd/MP3



(56) PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S

Air Con, e/w, e/m, Cd, Rear Parking Sensors

(53) AUDI A4 1.9TDI 130 AUTO 53.000mls, Pas, Leather, e/w. e/m, Alloys, Sports Line Body



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3dr. 23.000mls. Pas.

1/2 Leather, Alloys, e/w, e/m, Cd/MP3.

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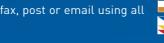
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TRANSIT, Tipper TDi 90ps DRW***TIPPER***350***, nl56fs tipper, finance available, full dea facilities. warranty, remote locking, 1 year warranty, remote locking, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, lwb. white, 26197 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693

HONDA

CIVIC. 2.2 i-CTDi Sport 5dr. ai07vde. adjustable seats, alloy wheel climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, headlight armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, pas, readlo/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:10, silver, 29800 miles, £12395, Sittingbourne 01795 429802 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

X-TYPE. 2.0d Sport Premium 4dr. bp54bzk, adjustable steering column/wheel, allov wheels, climate column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, headlight washers, heated seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:14, silver, 37000 miles, £9995, Stittngbourne, 0.1795 429802, 67000 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

XJ, 3.0 v6 se auto, 2003, blue metallic with sand leather, 49000 miles, £10999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

.IFFP

CHEROKEE, 2.8 CRD Limited 5dr Auto, ko06awz, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights. front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd. rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:13, black 51200 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

RANGE ROVER, 2005, blue metallic

RANGE ROVER, 1996, green metallic with grey full leather, 100000 miles, £2400, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MERCEDES BENZ

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 7000 miles, £12980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 5000 miles, £13290, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, Avantgarde SE Manual 3 DR Avantgarde SE, 2006, polar silver metallic, 33023 miles, £8890, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150. Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, atoll blue metallic, 43116 miles, £8490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009. cosmos black metallic, 3000 miles, £14497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437

SL55 AMG. ROADSTER, 2007. £58900, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

SLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2005, obsidian black metallic, 30672 miles, £16997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

TF 2002 blue with half leather es, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, black metallic with black and beige two tone leath, 50000 miles, £6999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

COOPER. 1.6 3dr, lb08uaw, adjustable COOPER, 1.6 3dr, InDRuaw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, and theft system, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, remote locking, insurance groups, silver, 4000 miles, £12995, Sittingoburne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 CZ2 ClearTec 5dr, gk09nwl, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric cruise control, driver airbag, electri mirrors, electric windows, foglights head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, pow assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance up:5, blue, 3000 miles, £9495 ingbourne, 01795 429802

seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, heated seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, navigation system, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control, insurance group:19, blue, 21500 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, abs, adjustable column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control. driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric vindows foolights front armrest head restraints, folding rear seats immobiliser, passenger airbag, po assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests side airoags, radio/cd, rear neadrests traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving_, silver, 9000 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, Ix08zrf LANCER, 1.8 GS3 40T CVI, IXUBZT, asb, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd. rear locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6 GT Pack, mf57vzp, leather, charcoal, 18" alloy whee cd autochanger, air-conditioning, alarm, bose audio system, brembo disc brakes, climate control air con, cruise control, electric heated front seats, electronic stability program (esp), front side and curtain airbags power assisted steering (pas), remote control keyless entry, trip computer, xenon headlamps, universal silver, 9000 miles, £18495.0000 Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 S 3dr Auto, gu04knx e seats, adjustable stee column/wheel, driver airbag, electric windows, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests insurance group:2, grey, 37500 miles £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802

PEUGEOT

206, hdi, 2002, grey, 0 miles, £3595, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

206. 1.4 S 5dr. pk54upo, adjustable column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, po assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:5, silver, 32500 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

306, lx, 2000, green, 50166 miles, £1895, Dover, 01304 242324

406, LX HDI 110 diesel cheap tax, 2001, silver, 147985 miles, £1595, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

406, v6, 2000, silver, 0 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PROTON

SAVVY, 1.2 Style 5dr, rx06cxg, SAWY, 1.2 Style 5dr, rx06cxg, adjustable sests, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric windows, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. red, 17500 miles, £4495, Sittingbourne, 01795 42980; (TRAS)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 16V Dynamique 3dr Air Conditioning, adjustable seats, air con, alloys, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, folglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group.3, reduced from, black, 1400 miles, £9495, Stitingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CLIO, 1.2 16V Dynamique 3dr Air

LAGUNA, 2.0 16V Initiale 5dr. central locking, climate control computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric s, foglights, front armrest electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, lumbar support, immobiliser navigation system, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:12, silver, 7000 miles, £13495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, iL 1589cc 5 door, 2003, abs brakes sunroof central locking alarm driver's airbag power steering history check immobiliser electric windows, blue 51350 miles £3495 rne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

400, 414 petrol, 1997, blue, 98000 miles, £750, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, 2.2tid vector manual, 2003, blue metallic with black leather grey seats, 49000 miles, £10999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

FORFOUR PASSION, 2006, melon Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

FORTWO cabrio passion, 2008, deep 7000 miles, £8999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO cabrio passion, 2005, jack Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO cabrio passion, 2009, silver metallic, 4000 miles, £9699, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO coupé passion, 2006, sugar candy pink, 7262 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

SUBARU

FORESTER, 2.0awd auto, 2003, red er silver metallic with grey cloth erior, 87000 miles, £4899, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, 1.0 SZ4 5dr, lo09tkj, 215 miles, £8495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SWIFT, 1.6 VVT Sport 3dr, Ir09oro, SWIFT, 1.6 WT Sport 3dr, Ird9oro, ads, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloys, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, immobiliser, passenger airbag, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, traction control. insurance groups; ped, 2000 miles, 19995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802

TOYOTA

TOYOTA 2001 1.3 CAMPER VAN 2 Berth, Elevating Roof Rear Conversion Recently Serviced, MOT

red, 120000 miles, £1495, Dover 01304 242324 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr MMT, gj08dfc, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloyls, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:3, reduced from, silver, 1000 miles, £8395, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

AGILA. Club 1229cc 5 door, 2008, cd driver's airbag multiple airbags powe steering history check electric windows, star silver, 4850 miles, £8795, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222

AGILA, Design 1229cc 5 door, 2008, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags powe steering history check electri windows, blue, 2300 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA, Twin Top Exclusiv Black 1796cc 2 door, 2008, cd player alloy wheels central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check electric ws, panacotta, 12690 miles, 5, Sittingbourne, 01795

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Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number: 595

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01622 752872

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Closing date: Friday 28 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like an further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795.

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Closing date: Wednesday 2 September 2009. Interview date: Friday 11 September 2009.

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Lane, Leeds, L59 6NF stating
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WOMEN seeking men

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Young lady, 20, enjoy meals out, c ema and socialising with friends, WLTM a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne Box 454247

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER
Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5,
slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing
out and cosy nights in with genuine
man. Box 453269

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun to how till blood for all 25

MATCH OF THE DAY!
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25,
5ft2, a woman who loves football!
Enjoys going out and staying in,
looking for a like-minded man, to be
her soulmate. Box 446494 €
NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL,
BUT

BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

OURS AND YOURS ONLY

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY
Attractive, down-to-earth BritishIndian single mum, 29, WLTM white
British male, 29-34, no ties, for longterm relationship. Box 883431
GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE
Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes,
brown hair, seeking LTR with male
30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the
Maidstone area. Box 448471

Maidstone area. Box 448471 Maidstone area. Box 44
SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 • • HORSES FOR COURSES...

RUNDED FUH COURSES...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 52", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princes Fig. 24 Leiking to mark

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME. FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long terr relationship Box 453039 •

SOUND GOOD? Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and nonsmoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595
HAPPY DAYS!

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31,
54", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petitle lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wrining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights involut looking for a carring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

OFFICE OFFICE

SOMETHING LASTING Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relatio ship. Hailsham Box 455221

GALLOP AHEAD! Maidstone-based Maldstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, and WLTM honest, reliable man. Box 451311

honest, reliable man. Box 451311 ♥
HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair,
blue eyes, interested in historical
places, music, eating out, seeks
kind, caring, genuine male 36-49,
non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ♥
LOVE TO LOVE YOU
LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovels framel, 36, 5ft4

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 96, 5ft4,
medium/large build, blonde hair, blue
eyes, own house, loves walking,
going out, the usuall Seeking male
for long-term/serious relationship.
Box 438102
■
SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair,
green eyes, likes socialising, staying
in, seeks genuine male for friendship
and more. Box 428666
■



QUICK, EASY WAY TO VIEW @HOTOS! Just enter the six-digit

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MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **① ②**

wasters! Box 908053 • • • BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbby, cuddly, blonde single mum,
39, 5fl6, likes cars, reading, pubs,
cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box
905614 • • • •

CUTE AS CAN BE
Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 • •

A SOUL MATE

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED! Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 & 46724 446724

PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374

TO THE STARS

Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40, and I like going out, astrology, writing, and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453877 ①

FREE AD placement, call: 0808 156 5339

COLLECT your messages: 0906 550 4335

YOUNG-AT-HEART

SMILE!
Looking for a fun-loving guy for a
LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental
nurse, easy to get on with, always
up for fun limes. Stittingbourne Box
454827
THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 40, 57", dark eyes,
GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in,
socialising, country pubs, cinema,
seeks loyal, carring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862
■
BETWEEN US

seeks joyar, Laning indee, for ineriorship & more. Box 152862
■ BETWEEN US

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking
for white male, genuine, professional
and solvent. Box 451900
● FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known
female, 40, likes socialising, tennis,
walks, swimming; seeks gent with
smillar interests to find hopeful love
with. Box 452106
● SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown
hair, medium build, gosh, looking for
ama with no issues and gsoh who
can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

■
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1,

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box

possible romance and fun 444796 **①** LOVE IS ALL AROUND 444/95 4

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly Blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

HELLO EVERYONE!
Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTM a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569

ACTIVE TYPE
Lively, energetic and fun loving num, 42, I'm 518, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/mazel eyes, with mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819

LET'S DATE LET'S DATE! Hard-working woman, 42, WLTM a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327

BELLA ISABEL BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTM a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 • VOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking on-Sea. Box 446457
LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gar-dening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 WILLON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!
Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, funloving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, walking, local gigs. WLTM the right man for TLC. Box 882020 WWW OFFER FOR THE WORK OFFER FOR THE WORK OFFER FOR THE WORK OFFER FOR THE RIGHT WORK OFFER FOR THE WORK OFF for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 • •

430403 **⊕** COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 **⊕**

later on. Box 889800 ©
COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 ©

RELIGHT MY FIRE RELIGHT MY FIRE
Young professional widow, 46, own
home, tall, attractive, green eyes/fair
hair, enjoys all the good things in life.
Looking for a fun-loving romantic
guy. Box 876575

FROM THIS MOMENT

FROM THIS MOMENT
Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4,
slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box
454591
→
HOPING YOUR THE ONE

Petite, outgoing blonde, 46, GSOH, looking for a caring, compassionate man who will be my soulmate and hopefully my life partner. Box 454710

HEART AND SOUL HEART AND SOUL
Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4,
size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening,
swimming, looking for a man, 35-49,
slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176
ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cut lemmale AR = noti?
University in the control of the

ARE TOU I'RE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes
socialising, dancing, travelling, good
food, seeking intelligent, loyal man
42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford.
Box 444366
SOUND GOOD?

Box 444366 SOUND GOOD?
Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box

STIMULATING COMPANY Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, wltm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box

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BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER
Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced
with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium
build, into cooking, driving, love to
talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a
normal guy Box 425952
■
A WONDERFUL IDEA
Professional lady, 49, n/s, with man.

R TOMDER PULL IDEA
Professional lady, 49, nts, with manners and a heart, good-looking, hazel eyes, blonde hair, likes cinema, weekends away and walks, WLTM my soul mate! Maidstone Box 455662

CARING & DROFESSION.

Not win ys but mater mausticle
Dox 45562
CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim
build, likes eating out, the beach,
travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55.
Hastings Box 417/100
JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly,
easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys
cinema, eating out, socialising, most
things, WLTM genuine male, to see
where life takes us! Box 893562
LOVELY BUBBLY

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, BRING ME TO LIFE

BRING ME TO LIFE Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medi-um build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832

NO MATTER WHAT
Nice looking female, 50, looking for nice looking, solvent male, 45-50, for friendship and leading to a LTR.
BOX 455914
YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU

CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 •

FIRST CONTACT FIRST CONTACT
Young lady of 54, 5ft3, not of many words but hoping to get to know a man to make me smile as I will him...Whitstable. Box 455014

working, seeking a man, 45-55, to be my knight in shining armour.Herne Bay Box 455417 •

armour.Herne Bay Box 455417 ♥

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 ♥

Box 430854 BEING WITH YOU
Hi I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys
pub meals, countryside, the beach,
cinema, seeks loving male for
friendship and more. Box 453104 D SHARE THE QUIET TIMES TOGETHER

62yr old attractive, well presented, happy lady, 5'2", short dark hair, slim build, love beach walks, pic nics, music, cosy nights, wltm a like-minded, genuine male. Box 455635 COUNTRY ROMANCE

COUNTRY ROMANCE
Intelligent, bubbly, tall, dark haired, green eyed, artistic brunette, 64, looking for tall, professional man who loves the arts, socialising, town/country for friendship and maybe more. Box 876054 • • mayoe more. Box 8/6054 • • • Over My Dog Oberful, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/acting, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first Box 434345 • Women

seeking women TABLE FOR 2?

Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5ft5, salt & peppa hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737



MEN seeking women

HERE FOR YOU

HERE FOR YOU
Decent outgoing lad, 19, likes
sports, keeping fit, drinks with
mates, meals, holidays, travel, theatre...seeking similar girl for loving
romance. Box 455724

READ THIS!
Fun-loving, honest male, 24, 6'6",
dark blond, hazel eyes, cuddly,
GSOH, seeks like-minded woman,
enjoys reading, movies and relaxin
with friends. Box 875548

■ HAVE MUCH TO OFFER

20 and 40 the fire political build, do READ THIS!

23yr old guy, 6ft, medium build, dark blond hair and blue eyes, enjoys pubs, cinema, walks, keeping fit, seeking like-minded girl for frien ship and more. Box 893423 ①

ship and more. Box 893423
■
CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
Hastings chap, 27, 6ft3, shy, active,
I like diving, rock climbing and art.
Would like to meet someone to
have furn with. Box 455815
■
MEANT TO BE, YOU AND ME?

His single aur 20 with 6501 look

Hi, single guy, 29, with GSOH, looking for friendship or a bit more. I love travelling and socialising, and especially films... Box 876193 ①

rM THE ONE!
Kind, generous and caring bloke,
31, from Folkestone, 6ft4, large
build, blue eyes, enjoy socialising,
cinema, eatings out, sport, seeking
a like-minded girl for LTR. Box
455527 ◆
A BIT SHY.

A BIT SHY... Passionate male, 33, GSOH, likes cycling, staying fit, travel, holidays and music, seeks lady to socialise with and take on dates. Box 455801

Honest, caring 37 year old that still thinks he's 20, likes cinema, pubs,

Hi all I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503 take out. Box 451503 THEAVEN ABOVE
HEAVEN ABOVE
Italian man, 37, currently living in
Maidstone, tall, very passionate and
fun to be with, seeking a sensual
woman for a LTR. Box 454418 THEAVEN

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER AT ALLINAUTIVE OFFER
Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805 ♠

CHEEKY SOH
Unconventional, independent, successful, fun guy, 39, hazel eyes, no
ties, like motorbikes, holidays,
theme parks, looking for a younger,
career female for lasting relationship. Ashford Box 455647 1

HAPPY GO LUCKY HAPPY GO LUCKY

Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue
eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love
swimming, walks on beaches, days
out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764 • •

TRUSTWORTHY
Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437 **①** **BROWSE** and listen line: 0906 753 3093

HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205

THE WIT TO WOO Handsome male, 37, 6ft4, blond hair.

Handsome male, 37, 6ft4, blond hablue eyes, looking to slowly rediscover the finer things in life. Herne Bay Box 424503 • Hello I'm Mark, 5'8" tall brown hair

and eyes very fit. Love fun in any form you can think of. Box 452898
HIYA

I'm a cute and laid-back guy, 41, 5ft8, short hair, athletic, very tactile, loving and spontaneous, likes shopping, travelling, eating in/out, hate football! Brighton. Box 450614 **①**

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL Romantic man, 41, 5ft10, slim, average looking, looking for a lady to bring love and laughter back into my pring love and laughter back into life. Canterbury Box 455342 **1**

Active male, 36, 6'4", short blond hair, blue eyes, broad-minded, seeks similar female, for fun times. Box 749398 **⊕**

ONE STEP CLOSER Truthful male, 43, 5ft8, brown hair/eyes, medium build, own house, enjoys most things, seeks loving woman. Brighton Box 455722 woman. Brighton Box 455722 THE FOOD OF LOVE?
Modest male, 42, 6ft2 with dark hair,

stocky, a chef and loving dad, loves cinema, dining out and cosy nights, seeks someone special and fun-loving. Box 450057 •

ing. Box 450057 To
LET'S BUILD A ROMANCE
Hello, I'm Simon 43, single man in
Kent own a construction co.
Muscular build, blue-eyed, nuggedly
handsome. Looking for a honest and
genuine lady. Box 453322 To
I'N LOVE
Single 50s male looking for lady for
loving friendship. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping for lasting romance. Box 451188

LONG-TERM THING TRUE LOVE

Fit and good-looking male, 44, 5ft8, dark hair/eyes, own house, honest and reliable, looking for a woman to find true love with. Brighton Box 455727 **①** OVER TO YOU

Single white male, 44, 5ft11, dark hair and eyes, seeking LTR with a single black lady, enjoying walks, nights in, nights out and more. Box 447191 OFFER ME YOUR LOVE

Easygoing male, 45, young looking, 64" tall, green eyes, short fair hair, Average build, witm like-minded lady, 30-48, for friendship and maybe more. Box 875799 MROMACE IS ALIVE 46yr old male. GSCNH looking or a 46yr old male, GSOH, looking or a bubbly female, 45-45, for romance and share the good things in life. Box 454688 ①

FAMILY LIFE FAMILY LIFE
Happy-go-lucky dad, 46, sporty,
keeps in good shape, own place,
looking for an honest person to get
to know well, possibly for relationship. Box 452446 0

THE LOOK OF LOVE
Outgoing and friendly man, 47, blue eyes, fair hair, likes the countryside and spicy food, looking to meet a nice and friendly lady for love. Box 449306

nice and mending lady for love. BOX 449306
CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU
Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274

STAND BY ME
48yr old male, hazel eyes, dark hair, into DIY, cooking, football, very cud-diy, GSOH and outgoing, interested in most things, seeking someone special. Box 877888

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Kind, genuine, down-to-earth male,

special. Box 877888 €
ISIT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Kind, genuine, down-to-earth male,
47, seeking companionship and
LTR. Sittlo, cropped hair, blue eyes,
stocky with cuddy belly! Hallsham.
Box 449585 €
TIME TOGETHER
Out going, sporty, 48yr old guy, 6ft,
blue eyes, medium build. I'm an
engineer and have a motorbike. I'd
love to meet an out going woman.
Box 444561 To TOTALLY HONEST
Loving, honest, passionate male, 50,
separated. I have job, car, flat, cat,
looking for similar younger lady to
share quality time together. Box
875941 €
SEE WHERE IT LEADS
Honest male, loyal and a GSOH. I'm
a good looking for TLC and cuddies with a nice woman. Box 455877

PIP OF THE PACK
Romantic, loyal, affectionate man,
56, likes cinema, sports, swimming,
dancing, photography, seeks female
for genuine relationship and more.
Box 455823 €
THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE
Divorced sporty guy, 56, 5ft11, slim,
modern dresser, own house, easygoing, tactile, likes to laugh, looking
for a leminine woman for love. Box
878484 €
AS YOUNG AS YOU FEEL!
Hellol I'm a male, mid 50's, but feel

AS YOUNG AS YOU FEEL! AS YOUNG AS YOU FEEL!
Hello! I'm a male, mid 50's, but feel
and act younger! I'm a smoker, live
by the sea and enjoy meals out,
golf, driving, holidays. Westgate-onSea. Box 455652 THE SIMPLE THINGS
SIIIm 60's male, 8ft necember Blees

THE SIMPLE THINGS
Slim 60s male, 6ft, non smoker, likes
country pubs, log fires, WLTM tall,
slim non-smoking female 58-68.
Battle. Box 455050

PEACH FOR THE HEIGHTS
Average sort of guy, 80, 6ft2, very
young hearted and intelligent, tooking for a tall non-smoking lady who
likes dancing, theatre and perhaps
shopping! Bexhill-on-Sea. Box
455048

455048 Men

seeking men LOOKING FOR SOMETHING

MORE
Young looking 50yr old, fairly shy, non-smoker, loves travel, walking and meals out...hoping to meet a nice guy for relationship. Box 452631

452631

GIVE IT A SHOT
Slim and fit bi man, 50, 5ft11, 10st, into photography and wood land walks, WLTM a man, any age, for good times and more. Box 451452

TEXT REPLY: For your protection, you will not be allowed to swap contact details until you have exchanged fine messages each. **GUIDELINES**, and the swap contact details until you have exchanged fine messages each. **GUIDELINES**, and the swap contact details until you have exchanged fine messages each. **GUIDELINES**, and the swap contact details until you have exchanged fine messages each. **GUIDELINES**, and the swap contact details until you will be swap contact of the swap contact of

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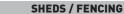
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DOWN AND OUT: Rob Key not picked to play Australia

Selectors by-pass Key for crucial fifth Test

KENT'S Rob Key has once again been overlooked by the England selectors after he was left out of the squad for the crucial fifth Test against Australia.

The Kent captain was believed to be in line to replace the out-of-form Ravi Bopara for the final Ashes Test that starts at the Oval tomorrow. While ex-players and pundits queued up to insist Key was the man to fill the spot after a return to form for his county, the England selectors decided to take a bigger gamble and pick the uncapped Jonathan Trott.

The Warwickshire batsman will bat at

number four with the England selector's 'favourite', Ian Bell, assuming the troubled number three berth in the batting line-up.

While Key will be no doubt disappointed in not being selected for the game, he refused to the speculation during the course of the week on his side's poor display at Edgbaston on Twenty20 finals day.

"I have not had a moment to catch my breath really," he said. "We came into that game on the back of three back-to-back

championship games and after playing so badly against Middlesex we had to make sure we got a win in the championship, so I was keeping an eye on the press, but Sunday was be the first day I have had off in quite a while so it gave the chance to look back at a hectic week.

What's perhaps more surprising is the fact off-spinner James Tredwell has failed to be talked about in terms of a call-up. He out bowled Monty Panesar in the championship win against Northants last week with figures of 10 for 100, compared to Panesar's 2

Tredwell spins Kent to win at Northants

JAMES Tredwell took his 50th first-class wicket of the season as Kent wrapped up a 238-run win against Northamptonshire to go 17 points clear at the top of Division Two in the County Championship.

The Kent off-spinner claimed match figures of 10 for 100 after taking five wickets in both innings, going on to register his 57th first-class wicket of the season.

Kent scored 244 in their first innings with Key top scoring with 90 before Tredwell claimed 5 for 68 to bowl Northants out for 218.

Martin van Jaarsveld then scored an unbeaten 100 with Geraint Jones hitting 93, as Kent declared on 302 for 5. Tredwell then spun Kent to victory on the final day with figures of 5 for 32 as Northants were bowled out for 90.

Kent return to championship action next Friday with the visit of Surrey to Canterbury



IN-FORM: James Tredwell took 10-wicket haul

Trescothick gives Spitfires a Twenty20 masterclass

A BELOW par performance from the Kent Spitfires resulted in them missing out on a third straight Twenty20 Cup final and with it the potential riches of the Champions League.

A seven-wicket defeat in the semi-final, orchestrated by Somerset Sabres' former England opener Marcus Trescothick, on Saturday saw the Spitfires exit the competition with a whimper. It also meant the club missed out on the chance to compete for £3.6 million in the inaugural Champions League against the best Twenty20 sides from the likes of Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, at the event staged in India during October.

The loss of all-rounder Ryan McLaren was the first blow of the afternoon as the South African failed to shake off a side strain picked up in a championship game earlier in the



BY **GLENN PEARSON**

month. It left skipper Rob Key with a decision to play either fast bowler Amjad Khan or leftarm spinner Rob Ferley. The Kent captain opted for the pace and experience of Khan, but the selection backfired when the England quick bowler conceded 16 runs in his opening over.

It was the worst possible start for the Spitfires who had earlier scored a competitive 145 for 5, thanks largely to a typically aggressive 77 in 51 balls from Darren Stevens. The Spitfires had slumped to 32 for 3 from their opening six overs, but Stevens clawed back the impetus with a fine knock that included taking 20 from the final over of the innings.

His efforts proved to be in vain, however, as Trescothick took a liking to the Kent attack, which included overseas fast bowler Wavne Parnell. The Somerset opener got the innings off to a flier, smashing 56 from just 32 balls to set up a comfortable win for the men from Taunton, who galloped home with seven balls

The Sabres scored 71 for 0 from the first six overs compared to Kent's 32 for 3 and that, according to Key, was the big difference between the two sides.

"You have got to start well and be right on the money and we weren't," he said. "We conceded 16 off the first over and we probably bowled a bit too wide and bit too full. It was the story of the first six really, we didn't bat well enough in the first six, but I think with 145 if we had a decent bowling show it might have been differ-

"It is not an easy wicket to bat on. They bowled full and straight and did it, while we bowled full and wide and from that stage we were always clawing it back."







ALL IN VAIN: Darren Stevens (left) played aggressively for the Spitfires but it was in vain as Marcus Trescothick (right) orchestrated a seven-wicket win for the Somerset Sabres

St Lawrence hosts Ponting's Aussies

WHILE the Spitfires were busy with Twenty20 finals day, the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury played host to the

Australian cricket team.

The Aussies put their final preparations together for the final Test with England at the Oval tomorrow, with a two-day game against the England Lions at Canterbury. Kent were due to play the Australian tourists but their involvement in finals day meant the fixture was taken up by the Lions.

It was the chance for Kent fans to see Aussie skipper Ricky Ponting, who scored 45 on the opening day, up close. For a report from the game, visit our website.



Katie looks to get world title under her belt



CONFIDENT: Katie Simpson now has her sights on becoming world champion

KATIE Simpson is confident about her chances of becoming world karate champion after winning silver at the European

Championships.

The 21-year-old from Maidstone captained the England ladies team, who picked up a total of 12 gold medals at the championships held in Berlin last month. It was the first time Simpson had cap-tained the side which she thoroughly enjoyed.

On her way to picking up silver, Simpson managed to beat the reigning world champion which

KARATE

has boosted her hopes of success at the World Championships in Portugal next year. With the championships 12 months away, she is already setting herself targets after winning two silvers and a bronze medal at the World Championships last year.

She said: "It was an excellent experience to be a part of a very successful Great Britain team. In fact it was probably one of our best showings at the championships. It was an honour to the captain and a really special moment to have. I have been in the squad for nine years now, so it was nice to get the call to become the captain and help guide the

"Beating the world champion has certainly helped me and I hope I can take that kind of form into the World Championships. Up until then I will be training hard in Maidstone and up in Birmingham to make sure I am in good shape for the event next

CRICKET ROUND-UP



PROMOTION: The Mote are set for Premier return

Premier return is on the cards for Mote

THE Mote remain on course for a return to the Kent League Premier Division after a relatively comfortable four-wicket win over Ashford that keeps them in second spot in Division One.

Two early wickets from Glen Aukett, followed by three apiece for Tom Marvey and Daniel Thirkell, reduced Ashford to just 143 in 48 overs.

The Mote made a disastrous start to the chase when James Marriott was bowled before a run had been scored, but Hodgson's 73 anchored the innings and despite a couple of hiccups, the home side reached 144

For 6 after 42 overs.

Addington's march to the Division Four title continued with a low-scoring 15-run win at Rainham.

Rainham's decision to field after winning the toss was vindicated when they bowled Addington out for just 128. Skipper Neil Scott top-scored with 36 and despite the early loss of Callum Mitchell they made a promising start, only for Duncan Bron (6 for 36) to rip through their batsmen.

Hopes

With three games left the leaders are 27 points clear and the win rubber-stamped their promotion.

Offham's lingering hopes of promotion from Division Five were all but extinguished when they suffered an 82-run loss at home to Farningham, who posted a forbidding 284 for 7 from their 50 overs.

Ben Gittings made 83, but his only meaningful support came from Leonard Watt ingrul support came from Leonard Watt (30) and Phillip Heine (39), whose departure effectively sealed Offham's fate, as they collapsed to 202 all out.

In the Feeder League, Yalding suffered a five-wicket loss to Sandwich 3rds.

Zeeshan Fazal played the anchor role with an unbeaten 57, but wickets fell too

regularly for Yalding to post a competitive target and they had to settle for 156 all out.

Sandwich wobbled from 92 for 2 to 105 for 5, but Matthew Burgess and Andy Chapman saw them home in the 32nd over.



CHANCES: Meschach Nugent and Dan Stubbs both missed chances as Maidstone slumped to defeat at Homelands, but the Stones' performance suggested better things are to come

New 'home' fails to inspire Stones to opening day win

THERE was a genuine buzz of optimism at Homelands on Saturday, with the usual earlyseason mood enhanced by the fact Maidstone were set to play their first-ever 'home' game at Ashford.

It may not have been the pined-for return to the County Town, but it felt a bit like moving into a rented house after living in a prefab for eight years.

Joint-manager Lloyd Hume publicly announced he was targeting a place in the playoffs, a claim that didn't look too outlandish given the squad's mixture of experience and talented graduates of the youth and reserve system.

Then the game began. If Maidstone have potential, Carshalton, beaten play-off finalists last year, already look like the finished article. Within 16 minutes they were in front. Jamie

Turner made an excellent save to thwart Bashira Alimi from close range, but the rebound fell to Charlie Ide, who steered in the rebound via the upright.

The visitors spurned two further chances before they were gifted a penalty on the half hour, when Richard Jolly went down in the area under a challenge from Nathan Paul,

FOOTBALL

BY FRED ATKINS

Maidstone 0



who won the ball cleanly but may have been tackling from behind.

The decision was charitable but justice was arguably done when Jolly hoofed the resulting penalty so far over the bar it ended up in the car park.

The reprieve was brief. On 39 minutes Adrian Toppin had time to turn and hit an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

A rout beckoned, but to United's credit they

mounted an impressive fight back and should have pulled one back before the break.

Peter Hawkins headed Alan Pouton's cross wide when he should have hit the target and Meshach Nugent wriggled through a crowd of defenders, only to shoot straight at keeper Matt Reed.

Maidstone starting XI



Carshalton began the second half looking for a quick kill, but after Ide wasted two clear chances, the Stones missed a glorious opportunity when Dan Stubbs was put clean through inside his own half, only to shoot straight at Reed.

While Carshalton always looked capable of going through the gears, United were genuinely unlucky not to score in the closing stages and their prospects for this season look far better than they did at this stage two years ago, when they didn't so much flirt with relegation as ply it with drink and try to get it in a taxi.

United were in action on Tuesday night at Waltham Abbey. For all the latest Stones news visit www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

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